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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you support the idea of privatizing the Commonwealth Health Center?

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INSIDE

LOCAL

NMC is inviting all community members to its 32nd Commencement Exercise on Saturday.

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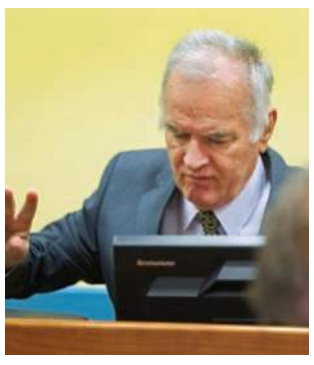
WORLD



Ratko Mladic still manages to reopen old wounds with the flick of his hand.

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LIFE & STYLE

The three "American Idol" finalists earn nearly uniform votes of confidence.

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Japanese tourist robbed in Garapan. PAGE 2
Fund: Employers must still remit contributions. PAGE 15

NMI's bond rating under review

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that the government will take "corrective actions" and help improve the economy to ensure that Moody's Investors Service will not downgrade the CNMI's B2 bond rating for its Series 2003A General Obligation Bonds that is currently under review.

» Moody's: Lack of sufficient current financial and operating info prompt review

"We haven't been downgraded…they put us on watch essentially, which means that if the condition deteriorates, we might get a less favorable rating and that surely will affect our ability to get favorable rates whenever we issue future bonds," Inos told reporters after signing a proclamation yesterday morning declaring May 21 to 28 Memorial Week.

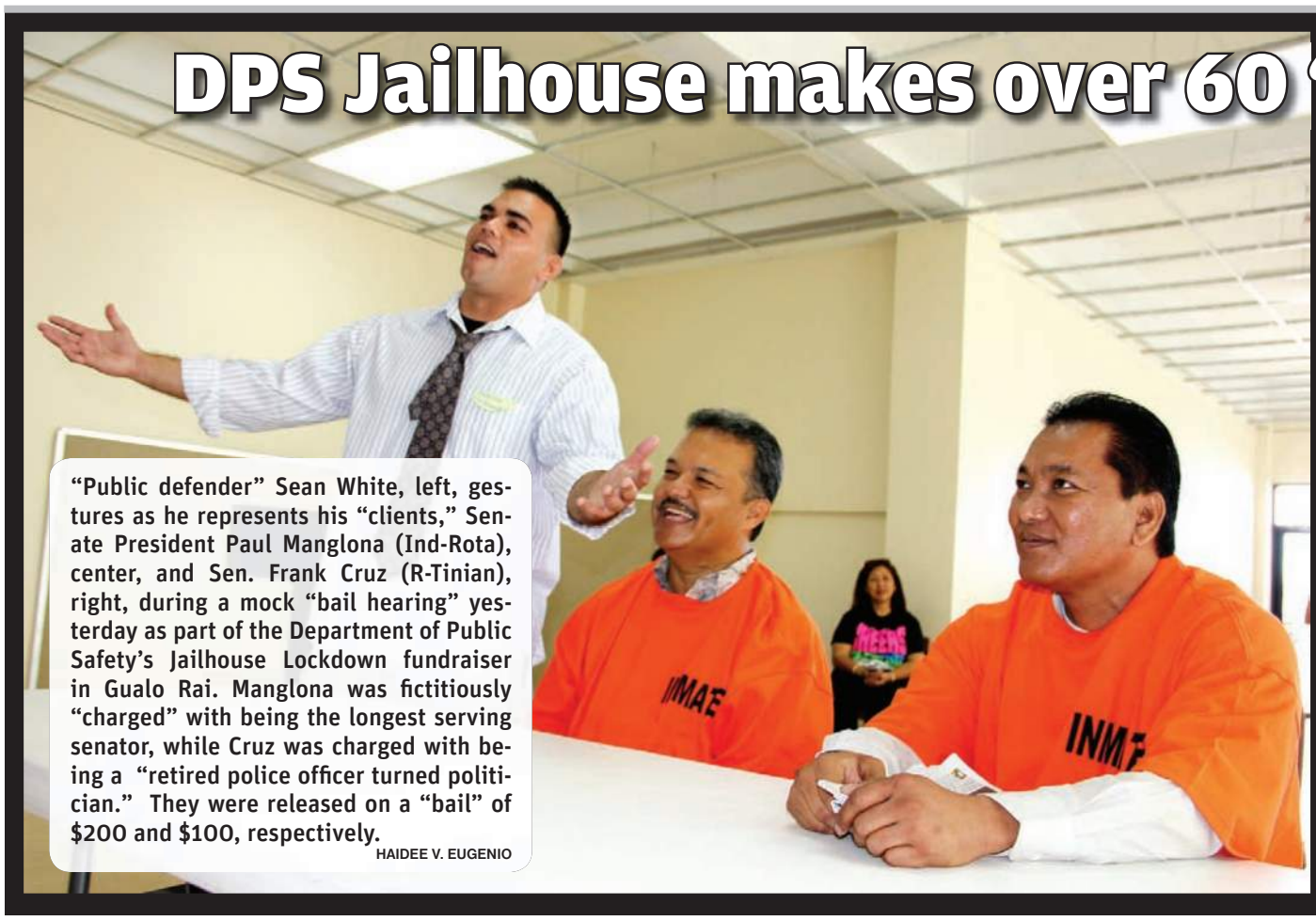
A downgrade of the CNMI's bond rating would mean that the Commonwealth would have more difficulty issuing bonds, such as a pension obligation bond that the Fitial administration and some lawmakers have been advocating to help pay for the government's outstanding employer contributions to the NMI Retirement Fund.

Inos said the issue is also more about turning the economy around.

"The task of everyone is to try to reverse that and see if we can improve the

See BOND on Page 4

DPS Jailhouse makes over 60 'arrests'



"Public defender" Sean White, left, gestures as he represents his "clients," Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), center, and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), right, during a mock "bail hearing" yesterday as part of the Department of Public Safety's Jailhouse Lockdown fundraiser in Gualo Rai. Manglona was fictitiously "charged" with being the longest serving senator, while Cruz was charged with being a "retired police officer turned politician." They were released on a "bail" of $200 and $100, respectively.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

» Officers fail to catch prime target: Fitial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Department of Public Safety officers "arrested" over 60 persons for their Jailhouse Lockdown fundraiser yesterday but failed to catch their No. 1 target: Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

"We tried to arrest Governor Fitial, but we failed to find him. Even his driver was not answering his phone," a beaming police officer told *Saipan Tribune* at 4:45pm.

By that time, the 2012 Police Week Jailhouse Lockdown has already netted 63 persons, including lawmakers, Cabinet members, businessmen, report-

See DPS on Page 4

COP owner: Renovation plan must be put on hold

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Suwaso Corp., the owner of Coral Ocean Point Resort Club, disclosed yesterday that its efforts to renovate the resort must be put on hold in light of the Department of Public Lands' notice of breach and its threat to terminate the corporation's lease.

» In light of DPL's notice of breach, threat of termination

Suwaso Corp. board chair Vincent DLG. Torres told *Saipan Tribune* that he sent a letter yesterday to acting DPL secretary Pedro I. Itibus disputing DPL's determination that Suwaso breached the lease agreement for the property at Agingan Point.

Torres also clarified that Suwaso re-

See COP on Page 4

Other firms want in on hospital analysis

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Besides The Medical City, two other companies have expressed interest in conducting a healthcare system analysis for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., prompting the CNMI government's decision to open up the procurement process, according to Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham.

» CHC emergency to be extended

Buckingham and press secretary Angel Demapan separately confirmed that the request for proposal to provide a review of the current healthcare system in the CNMI will be advertised today.

As this developed, the Fitial administration also confirmed its plan to extend the emergency declaration for the beleaguered corporation.

Buckingham said the two other companies were already in the picture as negotiations were underway for a memorandum of agreement between TMC and the CNMI through the Office of the Attorney General and the

See HOSPITAL on Page 4

Local

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Japanese tourist robbed in Garapan

A female Japanese tourist was robbed by an unidentified man who grabbed her purse as she was walking along Beach Road, Garapan.

The robbery occurred on May 2, 2012, but the Department of Public Safety, through the NMI Crime Stoppers Program, only released the information to the media yesterday.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said the 26-year-old victim was not injured but she lost a small light brown handbag that contained a white wallet, credit card, $120 cash, a pair of Paul & Joe sunglasses, a white Nikon digital camera, and a make-up kit.

The suspect was described as dark skinned, about 5'8" to 5'10" tall, with black short hair, thin build, weighing about 130 lbs, and wearing in a pair of purple shorts with dark T-shirt.

Police investigation showed that the victim was walking with a friend at 8pm on the sidewalk by Tico Rental Cars when the suspect grabbed her purse from behind.

The suspect ran across Beach Road in the direction of Shenanigan's Restaurant and east to Corporal Jack Street.

This incident comes on the heels of another robbery that occurred on April 12. Police said a 57-year-old Filipino cashier at Cery Store in Kannat Tabla sustained minor head injuries when one of three unidentified persons dressed in black masks and black clothing assaulted her. The robbers took off with $500 cash.

That same day, a 32-year-old Chinese woman was robbed of her purse by an unidentified man as she was walking east along Orchid Street by the 3JM Vegetable Fruit Market in Garapan. The victim was not injured. Her purse contained $15 cash, a CNMI driver's license, and a bicycle padlock.

Tips may be submitted through the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 or at its website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

GES is getting a new fence

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Home of the Mallards is getting a new fence.

Garapan Elementary School principal Paulette Sablan said Wednesday that the island's biggest public elementary school will soon have an 8-foot high concrete fence with metal railings, replacing their old fence made of chain links.

"This has been the plan for years. It's just that the funding was never available but now it is, so they started the project," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the project is funded with capital improvement project monies.

Rommel Mostales of the Public School System CIP Office said in a separate interview that the project began on April 16 and will run for four months with a price tag of $115,900. DKK Inc. is the project contractor.

Both Mostales and Sablan said that the project has two phases. Phase 1, which is in progress, involves the replacement of the school fence along Beach Road. Phase 2 covers the school's main entrance along Orchid St.

Sablan said the old chain links, if found to be in good condition, will be used to replace the fence at the back side of the campus, which has been damaged by the overgrown tree that they recently cut.

According to Sablan, the new fence would make Garapan Elementary School "more aesthetically and architecturally pleasing."

"We're in the business district so we want to make sure that our campus looks inviting and enticing to go along with the rest of the business community surrounding it," she said.

Sablan noted that the chain link fence is hard to maintain since overgrown trees tend to go between them. "At least with the concrete poles, it could prevent that from happening," she added.

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Mayor seeks Tinian businesses' help; shares successes and challenges

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz sought yesterday the business sector's help in further improving Tinian's economy which he said has already seen some strides. These include making payments to an over $2 million debt he inherited from previous administrations, maintenance of tourist sites using old equipment, and forging a closer relationship with the U.S. military, not only to protect the island's historic sites but also boost local business activities during training such as the ongoing Exercise Geiger Fury by Marine Aircraft Group-12 out of Japan.

Dela Cruz was the guest speaker at yesterday's Tinian Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting at Fleming Restaurant.

"When we took office we made a commitment to help the economy of Tinian grow. We have demonstrated our commitment to creating a dynamic public-private sector relationship that would improve the quality of all our lives. We are doing that. Now we need your help," he said in his speech.

The mayor's speech before the Tinian business chamber was likened by some to a State of the Island Address. Over 40 members and guests were at the meeting.

Phillip Mendiola-Long, president of the Tinian Chamber of Commerce, said in a phone interview that overall, the mayor's message was "positive."

"He's got a lot of challenges but he has a grasp of what can and should be done. He is reaching out to the business community. We'll help as much as we could," Mendiola-Long said.

He said he will be appearing before a legislative committee to defend Tinian's fiscal year 2013 budget, which includes request for new equipment and materials for tourism development projects.

Cruz said the only true measure of the island economy is the total business gross revenue receipts. This is why he has asked Tinian Resident Director of Commerce Jose Kiyoshi and Tinian Resident Director of Finance Edward Shai to monitor BGR receipts.

"Please allow them to visit your establishments and develop the database we need to justify an adequate annual central budget for Tinian," he said.

$1 fee

The mayor said he will be asking the Tinian Legislative Delegation to introduce local legislation that would give the Tinian Municipal Fund "$1 for every visitor who rides on our roads in a tour bus or van, who uses one of our beaches for snorkeling or scuba tours, or who utilizes a scooter or all-terrain-vehicle on our roads."

Funds collected will help maintain roads connecting historic sites on military leased lands.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) said he would like to know more about this proposal. He, however, said there is already an existing Tinian Local Law 15-12 that charges $5 on car rentals and $2 on scooters for a similar purpose. He said all that's needed is to implement this law.

Conner also said the Legislature just recently passed a $15 charge on transient visitors or tourists checking in at hotels and similar facilities in the CNMI, and having new fees and charges may not be acceptable so some businesses.

Military issues

Dela Cruz, in his prepared remarks, said his economic development task force recommended pushing for the long awaited military development of Tinian's leased lands.

This is why he said he immediately began lobbying with the military leadership in Guam and in the Pacific, beginning with Admiral Beissel, then his replacement, the current Commander Joint Region Marianas, Rear Adm. Paul Bushong.

"In the face of an EIS to create a series of rifle ranges on Tinian, we negotiated a Programmatic Agreement that will protect access to North Field's National Historic Monument and pay for its proper maintenance. I am pleased to report that we are now working toward an agreement with Naval Facilities Engineering Command that will give us at least $30,000 a year to maintain the National Historic Landmark," he said.

Dela Cruz also said Tinian's constant and somewhat expensive lobbying has paid off with the arrival of Marine Air Group-12 and its support group. Some 120 U.S. Marines from MAG-12 are now on Tinian, and some 100 more are expected in the days ahead for Exercise Geiger Fury, the largest military exercise in the CNMI in years.

"They arrived with a 'buy local' policy, of which many of you have already benefited. Others of you will shortly be selling coffee, chicken and ribs to the hardworking and hungry Marines at both West Field and North Field. Others still will feel the effect as the Marines begin to enjoy liberty in San Jose Village this weekend," he added.

Other challenges

The mayor said developing the private sector economy has been problematic. The critical obstacles have been, and continue to be, the high cost of electricity and transportation, both sea and air, he added.

"There is little we can do about the cost of electricity; however we have worked diligently into resolving the problem of transportation. I have written to the Commonwealth Ports authority again, asking for their game plan to complete our now seven-year-old 'new' departure terminal, but have had no response. But will continue

See MAYOR on Page 5

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DPS

From Page 1

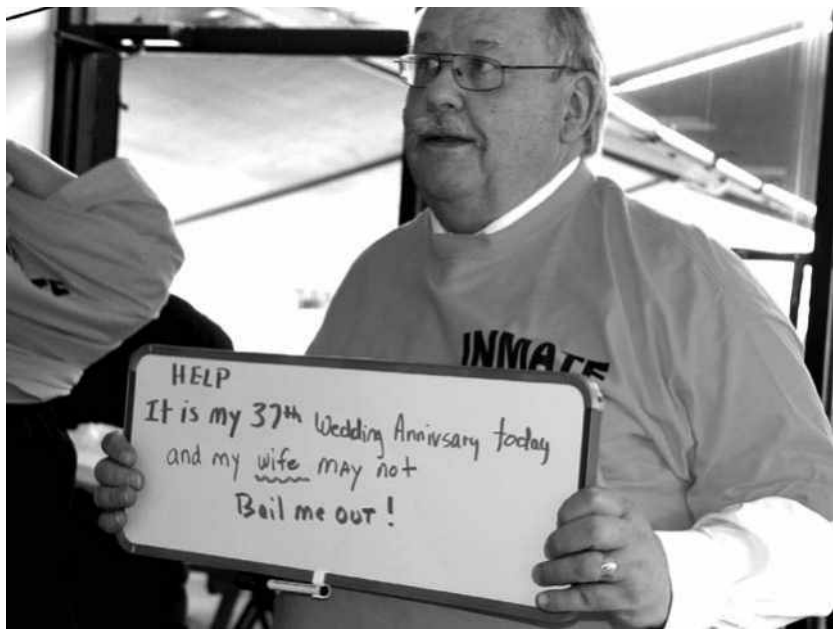
ers, and other prominent community members. An estimated $4,500-plus was raised. The event started at 8:30am and finished at 7pm.

Police officers tried to "arrest" Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos but, as he is on sick leave, Inos sent on his behalf his daughter, Christine, to the Jailhouse.

The minimum bounty was $25. The arrestees had to match the bounty in order to bail themselves out of jail, which was located at the Spring Plaza parking area in Gualo Rai.

The bigger the bounty amount means the bigger the bail.

The arrested persons—who were incidentally all smiles—were booked, photographed, and made to wear inmate shirts for their bail hearings.



Attorney General Edward Buckingham, in an orange "inmate" shirt, spends minutes of his 37th wedding anniversary "locked up" in the Department of Public Safety's mock jailhouse in Gualo Rai yesterday morning as part of DPS' Jailhouse Lockdown fundraiser. Buckingham, fictitiously "charged" with driving an economy- and environment-friendly vehicle, was "released" on a $250 bail.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Former lawmaker and DPS commissioner Claudio K. Norita served as the bail hearing judge.

After the hearing, the arrestees were treated to barbecue and drinks, and then released.

Police officer Adrian Mendiola said all proceeds will be used to pay for the various expenses related to the Police Week celebration, DARE, and other DPS community programs.

"We had a good response. Positive attitude, all in good laughter," said Mendiola who is chairman of the Police Week celebration.

Mendiola said the Jailhouse Lockdown generated community involvement as arrestees who failed to pay the bail called their friends, officemates, and family members to bail them out.

"Everybody's in compliance. We would like to thank the people for supporting this event," he added.

Jailhouse Lockdown was first conducted in 2010 as part of Police Week celebration.

COP

From Page 1

leased only 34 employees and that 42 others are still employed.

In his letter to Itibus, Torres said the risks involved increases significantly from the threat of termination and that they need to get assurance from DPL to proceed with their project.

"We kindly ask your good office to work with us in good faith and for your support and cooperation in ensuring that our project remains viable," Torres told Itibus.

He asked Itibus for a meeting next week, May 20 to 25, 2012, to discuss the notice of breach and to clarify "any misunderstandings."

In his notice, Itibus cited at least three lease conditions that Suwaso allegedly failed to address. He gave the corporation 30 days from May 1, 2012 to address the alleged deficiencies.

If Suwaso fails to address the deficiencies within the 30-day period, Itibus said that DPL will treat Suwaso as being in default and will terminate the lease agreement.

The first breach of condition is Suwaso's alleged failure to submit its construction plans by the given deadline.

The second breach, Itibus said, is by failing to secure and submit the necessary permits within the allotted time.

The third breach, Itibus said, is Suwaso's failure to submit enough evidence of its sources of financing.

In Suwaso's reply yesterday, Torres pointed out that the 1986 lease agreement should not be applied to Suwaso's latest renovation plans. Instead, the 2011 lease is the proper applicable legal terms and conditions, he said.

He pointed out that the corporation submitted its architecture and engineering plans and specifications to Itibus on April 10, 2012.

In that letter, Torres said, they specifically asked for Itibus' guidance and advice on how to secure the necessary permits from other governmental agencies.

In particular, Torres said they asked whether or not the proper procedure is to secure first the approval of their plan by DPL and then proceed to secure the rest of the government permits based on DPL's approved plan and to them know as soon as possible.

Torres said that based on a provision of the 2011 lease, DPL has 30 days to review their plan and specifications and give them a reasonable time to submit any further information or necessary changes.

"We were waiting for your response and guidance. And we were surprised that, instead of communicating and resolving any pending issues with us, your office issued a notice of breach (which is improper)," Torres told the acting secretary.

He also pointed out that the 2011 lease provided that the financing document must be drafted with enough specificity to be verifiable and acceptable to DPL. "It did not say that Japanese language using English numbers is unacceptable or that only the English language is acceptable," he said.

Torres explained that they submitted the original bank certification, which was in Japanese, but the amount of money in the bank was in English and could easily be understood and calculated accordingly.

Torres assured that, although Suwaso is in compliance with the 2011 lease, they will still provide all the documents that DPL is asking for.

Torres told *Saipan Tribune* last month that COP is shutting down its hotel and room operations beginning May 13 to give way to its $20-million renovation project. Torres had said they will begin the process of its renovation and construction plan pending governmental permit approval.

The golf course and one of COP's restaurants will remain open.

COP is located on a 735,023 square meter property at Agingan Point, Saipan.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to a wonderful husband and devoted father, Raymond Mendoza! All the wrapping paper in the world wouldn't be enough if we wanted to wrap our love for you as a special gift on your birthday. Happy birthday to the most loving husband and father from the most loving wife and children, Julz, JBoy, Jiana, and Kiers!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BOND

From Page 1

economy [which] is really more of the issue here," he added.

On May 4, Moody's Investors Service announced that it has placed under review the CNMI's B2 rating Series 2003A General Obligation Bonds, affecting $1.7 million in outstanding debt.

Moody's said the placement of the rating on review "is prompted by the lack of sufficient current financial and operating information."

"If the information is not obtained within the next 60 days, we will take appropriate rating action, which could include the withdrawal or lowering of the rating," Moody's said.

Inos, a former Finance secretary and currently overseeing government finances, said the administration's objective is to try to overcome everything "that created that scenario and a lot of it also have to do with the way the bond rating folks see our future economy and if it doesn't look like we're going to turn this thing around, then I'm afraid…we'll probably get an unfavorable rating, meaning downgrading our existing [bond rating]."

Deficit, Fund issues

Inos also said that some $280 million of the cumulative unreserved fund deficit of $336.9 million is the government's unpaid employer contribution to the NMI Retirement Fund, while the rest—almost $57 million—is the operating deficit that Inos said has accumulated "since day 1."

Deficit is a combination of overspending and revenue shortfall.

Inos said the deficit accumulated from one administration to another.

A Deloitt report states that the general fund deficit is in large part the result of underfunding of employer retirement contributions and related penalties totaling $246.5 million as of Sept. 30, 2010.

Inos said retiring the operational deficit hinges on the availability of cash.

"A lot of those are contracts that have been obligated that haven't been paid. We need to take a look at those contracts and manage them appropriately. Talk to vendors and deal with vendors so that we can do some payment plans and so forth. Again without additional resources we can only stretch whatever resources we have right now and that involves making arrangements with creditors so that we can pay them down based on available funds," he added.

Inos said the administration is cognizant of the constitutional provision requiring the retirement of deficit during the second consecutive fiscal year following the year. But he said all administrations have violated this constitutional provision.

"Obviously at some point we are going to have to stop rolling the deficit and just pay whatever we owe, and we'll be in the black but we're not in the clear. The needs certainly exceed the resources and so we're trying to balance that out. It's a difficult task but we do our best," he added.

Deloitte released last week an independent audit report showing that the CNMI government's unreserved fund deficit ballooned by $36.1 million or 12 percent in a 12-month period, bringing the total to $336.9 million by the end of fiscal year 2010, compared to $300.8 million in fiscal year 2009. The report says there's not much recovery in sight for fiscal year 2011.

Inos, at the same time, called for a meeting with lawmakers this morning to discuss ways to address the crises plaguing the NMI Retirement Fund.

The Fund filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy last month, the first public pension agency on U.S. soil to seek bankruptcy protection.

HOSPITAL

From Page 1

corporation.

The MOA aims to set up protocols for both TMC and the CNMI during the assessment process, including financial expectations.

Buckingham noted that TMC and the CNMI "did not have a meeting of the minds" as discussions progressed. He said the initial idea was for TMC to conduct the six-week assessment for free but later found out that fees will be incurred by the Commonwealth.

"That caused concern for us," said Buckingham.

The OAG and TMC agreed to establish three different paths to be taken following the six-week assessment period. Buckingham said the CNMI offered the "rate of $150,000 or actual value of the product as determined by the Commonwealth, whichever is less" should TMC's assessment lead to a product that will be used substantively by the CNMI and a contractor other than TMC.

Margaret A. Bengzon, group head of the Strategic Services Group of TMC, said in a statement that they offered a counterproposal: Instead of $150,000, TMC will be reimbursed for $200,000 plus all out-of-pocket expenses to be incurred during the conduct of the feasibility study.

Bengzon maintained that they added an "incremental amount" to TMC's fee, given the company's upfront investment in the study and the implied effective guarantee of its product. It is TMC's belief, she added, that it would be "more onerous" for the CNMI to work with another group with their product.

She added that TMC is "hard pressed" in the stipulation that would allow the company to be paid even less than $150,000.

"It is unfortunate that we were unable to come to agreement with the leadership of the CNMI and the CHC in this regard. We were so convinced of our ability to support CHC in resolving its operating and organizational challenges, such that we were willing to subsidize the study upfront, and make subsequent investments to enhance CHC's facilities and services as may be recommended by the study," said Bengzon.

RFP

Opening the procurement process would encourage competition and present the CNMI with the best deal possible, said Buckingham. According to him, that does not necessarily mean the cheapest. It involves a proposal that would create a good quality product with reasonable cost.

The RFP seeks out services of companies "with extensive background in the evaluation of small community healthcare systems for efficiency and effectiveness in meeting community needs."

These companies should be able to conduct a study focusing on critical elements of healthcare system, areas of service identified as using inappropriate amount of agency resources, areas where significant cost savings can be achieved, areas where revenue enhancement can occur, clinics on the islands of Tinian and Rota, and the medical referral program.

Deadline for submission of proposals is May 21.

Buckingham disclosed that there will be a review committee that will make a recommendation on the proposals to be submitted.

He noted, though, that with the anticipated emergency extension, there will be "flexibility" in the procurement process.

Although TMC is not in the business of providing consulting services for its own sake, Bengzon said they will review the RFP and "assess if submitting a proposal remains aligned with our strategic interests."

"We remain committed to partnership with the CNMI in improving the state of health and healthcare in Micronesia," she added.

2-year suspension of payments threatens CDA loan program

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) is proposing to allow Commonwealth Development Authority borrowers to suspend for two years their loan principal payments to CDA because of economic hardships but this early, officials warn that the bill not only threatens the agency's existing loans of $36.5 million but would also put a moratorium on new loans for two years if no payments to previous loans are received.

Cabrera said his House Bill 17-301 "is not a loan forgiveness measure."

"This legislation allows CDA direct loan borrowers to elect to suspend loan payments for two years," he said in his bill.

Just the same, some lawmakers are lukewarm to the idea.

Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said he's not necessarily supporting such proposal because people have already been making adjustments to make payments on their loans.

"If we suspend payments on the principal, we are also ready to put a moratorium on CDA loans to new borrowers because of a lack of available monies," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

» Lawmakers clash on new bill's impact

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said he understands that times are hard but this bill has to be looked at carefully. "How harmful will that be for CDA? We need to make sure the benefits outweigh the cost," he said.

CDA loan manager Oscar Camacho expressed surprise yesterday that such a bill was introduced without consulting CDA, whose operations and loan portfolio will surely take a hit from the proposal if signed into law.

"This bill gives false hopes to borrowers. It will derail every effort we do to assist borrowers through our debt relief program," Oscar Camacho said.

CDA's debt relief program, he said, has been successfully helping delinquent borrowers restructure their payments to avoid foreclosure.

"But what a bill like this does is tell borrowers not to pay their loans for two years. Responsible borrowers, I hope, will continue to make their payments," he added.

Camacho and CDA comptroller Danny Militante said at stake here is CDA's total loans of $36.5 million, including delinquent loans of $22.3 million.

"What does the Legislature want? To close down CDA for two years because they're trying to promote non-payment of loans for two years?" Camacho asked, adding that CDA will submit to the Legislature a formal position paper on the bill that he describes as unnecessary. He pointed out that CDA already has a program that helps borrowers deal with the economic hardships.

Cabrera

Camacho and Militante said their statements are their own comments and not the official position of CDA at this time. CDA executive director Manuel Sablan was not available yesterday.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), for his part, said if this House bill reaches the Senate, he will support it.

"Businesses and borrowers need all kinds of relief because of high cost of doing business such as electricity. Even the federal government is providing relief to borrowers because of the economic situation," he said.

Manglona said CDA should consider trimming its operating revenue so it can accommodate this proposal to suspend by two years the principal loan payment to CDA.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) and Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) separately said they do not support it.

"Because it was a contract negotiated in good faith. Maybe to suspend the interest [payment] but not the principal," Conner added.

Cabrera's HB 17-301 amends Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code Section 1003(32).

It specifically provides that "beginning with the effective date of this provision, subject to the conditions set forth herein, all loans made directly by the authority shall offer borrowers a forbearance option to suspend principal payments for a period of two years."

It also says, "This option shall not be available to indirect loans permitted via syndication or other means, loans guaranteed by the authority, and to non-principal interest payments on all loans."

Cabrera's bill states that due to poor economic conditions, CDA is encountering an alarmingly high rate of loan defaults.

Channel Bridge site red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the DPW Channel Bridge and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from the site had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan this week.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

MAYOR

From Page 3

to push for its completion," he said.

He also said they have a plan for obtaining roll-on, roll-off ferry boat service.

Dela Cruz said he has also been working closely with Star Marianas Air and the Guam Airport Authority to establish direct flights from Guam to Tinian.

"This will bring Guam players into the Dynasty Hotel and Casino, providing a direct infusion of cash into the Tinian Municipal Fund," he added.

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5-percent salary hike for CPA civil service employees

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board approved early this month a 5 percent, across-the-board salary increase for its employees.

The board, at its May 4 meeting, discussed the proposed salary hike in an executive session and unanimously approved the proposal when it reconvened the regular session.

CPA executive director Edward M. Deleon Guerrero disclosed that the motion to increase the salary was raised at the board's Feb. 9 meeting. However, this was not included in the meeting agenda "so the motion couldn't really be made public."

When asked how many employees will benefit from the increase, Deleon Guerrero said, "Quite a big number."

He noted that the date and funding source for the salary hike have yet to be identified.

He said Wednesday that the board instructed him and comptroller Derek T. Sasamoto to look into the agency's finances and determine when the salary increase will be implemented.

Deleon Guerrero pointed out that the salary increase will be applied only "for those Civil Service employees who are eligible."

"There's no exact time yet as to when to implement it," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*. "It will be up to me and the comptroller based on the analysis of our financial strength and then we can do the across-the-board salary increase."

While CPA has yet to complete its financial analysis report, Deleon Guerrero said they are counting on the additional revenue that will be brought in by Saipan Air.

Saipan Air will be the first national carrier of the CNMI. It will launch its inaugural flight on July 1. The company, owned by Tan Holdings, will initially provide daily flights to Narita in Japan and four-times-a-week service to Beijing, China. By Aug. 1, it will offer additional daily flights to Osaka and thrice a week flights to Shenyang.

"We're very hopeful that we will be able to do the salary increase but not at this time. We will make the determination as soon as we have the resources available to CPA," added Deleon Guerrero.

In February, the board renewed the employment contracts of Deleon Guerrero and Sasamoto and raised their salaries by $5,000.

MAG-12 gets full on fuel

By LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
MARINE CORPS COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

TINIAN—Third Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, bulk fuels specialist Marines began receiving fuel from C-130's for flight operations during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 May 15.

One of the primary objectives of MAG-12 operations at Tinians' West Field is establishment of a forward refueling point to extend aviation-training operations within the Mariana Islands Range Complex airspace.

LANCE CORPORAL GAGE KARWICK

A Marine with Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, bulk fuel specialists, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force, observes the operations of a fuel line during a fuel drop at Tinians' West Field during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 on May 15.

West Field provides a unique training venue because it has no bulk aviation fuel storage capacity. MAG-12 Marines have successfully installed high-volume fuel bladder storage and distribution systems to fill the gap.

Each expeditionary fuel bladder has the capability of storing more than 20,000 gallons of fuel.

Because fuel expands in the heat and MAG-12 is operating in a tropical environment on Tinian, the bladders are never filled to max capacity. This extra safety measure prevents any rupture in the liner of the bladder.

In the unlikely event a rupture were to occur, additional safety systems are applied around the bladder to ensure the fuel could be retained for further use and there would be no negative impact on the environment. A self-contained hazardous material liner lays underneath and around the bladder system as one such safety system to prevent leaked fuel from seeping into the ground.

"The protective berm around the bladder is basically a fuel safety net," said Lance Cpl. Daniel L. Featherston, MAG-12, MWSS-171 semi-refueler operator. "That berm allows us to safely store the fuel we receive from the planes so that no fuel can leak out and harm the environment in the area."

The fuel bladder system is a vital tool for Exercise Geiger Fury 2012.

"Without this fuel, we cannot operate any of our components," said Sgt. Jonathan R. Cadenas, MAG-12, MWSS-171 bulk fuels specialist. "There would be no fuel for the planes, vehicles, generators as well as all other systems requiring fuel."

The amount of time it takes to unload the fuel from the C-130 aircraft differs with the amount of fuel the plane is carrying.

"Each plane is carrying about 6,000 gallons of fuel," said Featherston. "It can take anywhere from an hour to an hour and a half to properly unload the fuel into the bladder systems."

Supporting expeditionary flight operations with a safe and reliable forward refueling capability is a critical requirement that enables the Marine Corps aircraft to quickly respond to real-world contingencies. It's the dedicated and continuous efforts of all MAG-12 Marines that will ensure exercise Geiger Fury 2012 provides the realistic training needed to maintain the highest levels of readiness and proficiency.

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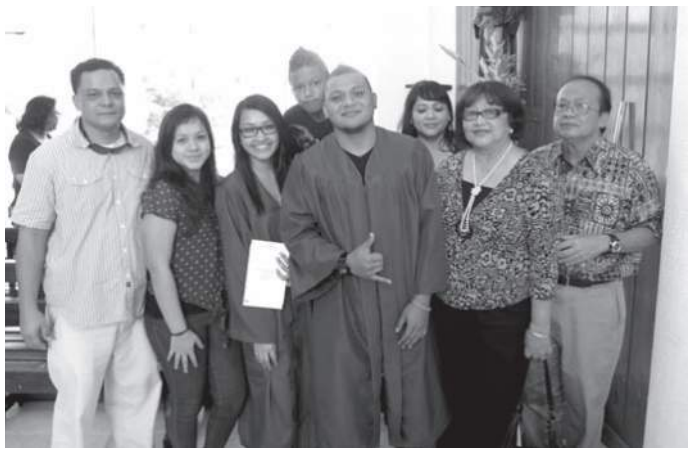
NMC to confer 120 degrees at Saturday's graduation rites

»Brief investiture ceremony for NMC president Hart will open graduation ceremony



NMC

Northern Marianas College 2012 graduates Joserin Mendiola, third from left, and Thomas John Manglona, fifth from left, pose for a group photo with family and friends after the graduating class's special Mass held at San Vicente Church.

The Northern Marianas College is inviting all community members to its 32nd Commencement Exercise, which will take place this Saturday, May 19, 2012 at 4pm, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

During the ceremony, the college will be conferring 120 associate and bachelor degrees as well as 42 high school and GED diplomas.

"We are extremely proud of our graduates, many of whom have had to overcome significant challenges and obstacles to earn their degrees," said NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart. "Graduation marks an important milestone in their lives, and we are inviting everyone in the community to join us for this joyous event."

"And while graduation is an important, momentous occasion to celebrate students' academic achievements, it also an appropriate time to honor those who have supported them during their educational journeys—family, friends, instructors, staff and loved ones," added Hart.

In addition to conferring degrees to deserving students, the graduation will also include the formal investiture of Hart as the president of the Northern Marianas College. During this initial portion of the program, the NMC Board of Regents will formally invest Hart with the authority of the Northern Marianas College Office of the President, and the college mace and presidential medallion will be formally presented to her. These two symbols of the office will be formally introduced in this graduation ceremony and will become part of all graduation ceremonies in the future.

Taking into consideration the current economic situation, and the enormity of the planning and human resources needed to organize a separate investiture-inauguration ceremony, Hart chose to proceed with a simple, yet dignified, investiture ceremony that will be tied into the commencement ceremony.

This year's graduation theme is "Believe," which was selected by a representative group of the graduating class. Traditionally, this group also selects the keynote speaker and this year the class selected Velma Deleon Guerrero, who is a faculty member and the Liberal Arts program coordinator for the college.

During the ceremony, several awards will be presented, including the leadership award, which will be presented by the governor and lieutenant governor. Academic achievement awards will also be handed to students with the highest grade point averages. ***(NMC)***

$610M assets, $93K liabilities

»Fund files statement of financial affairs

The NMI Retirement Fund filed yesterday in federal court its statement of financial affairs, listing its assets in the amount of $610 million and liabilities of $93,183.98.

According to its summary of schedules, the Fund's assets consist of $3,165,775 in real property and $606,834,237.86 in personal property.

Of the $606,834,237.86 in personal property, $297,879,389.19 consists of receivables owed the Fund by the CNMI government and select agencies and public corporations.

The $93,183.98 in liabilities reflects creditors holding unsecured nonpriority claims.

The Fund's footnote in the summary of schedules states that a significant portion of its unsecured, non-priority liabilities consist of unliquidated amounts that are owed Fund members. The Fund said liquidation of such amounts will likely require completion of its ongoing actuarial analysis.

The Fund, through counsel Braddock J. Huesman, also filed yesterday a motion asking the court to seal some portions of its statement of financial affairs, particularly portions that contain the names and addresses of beneficiaries.

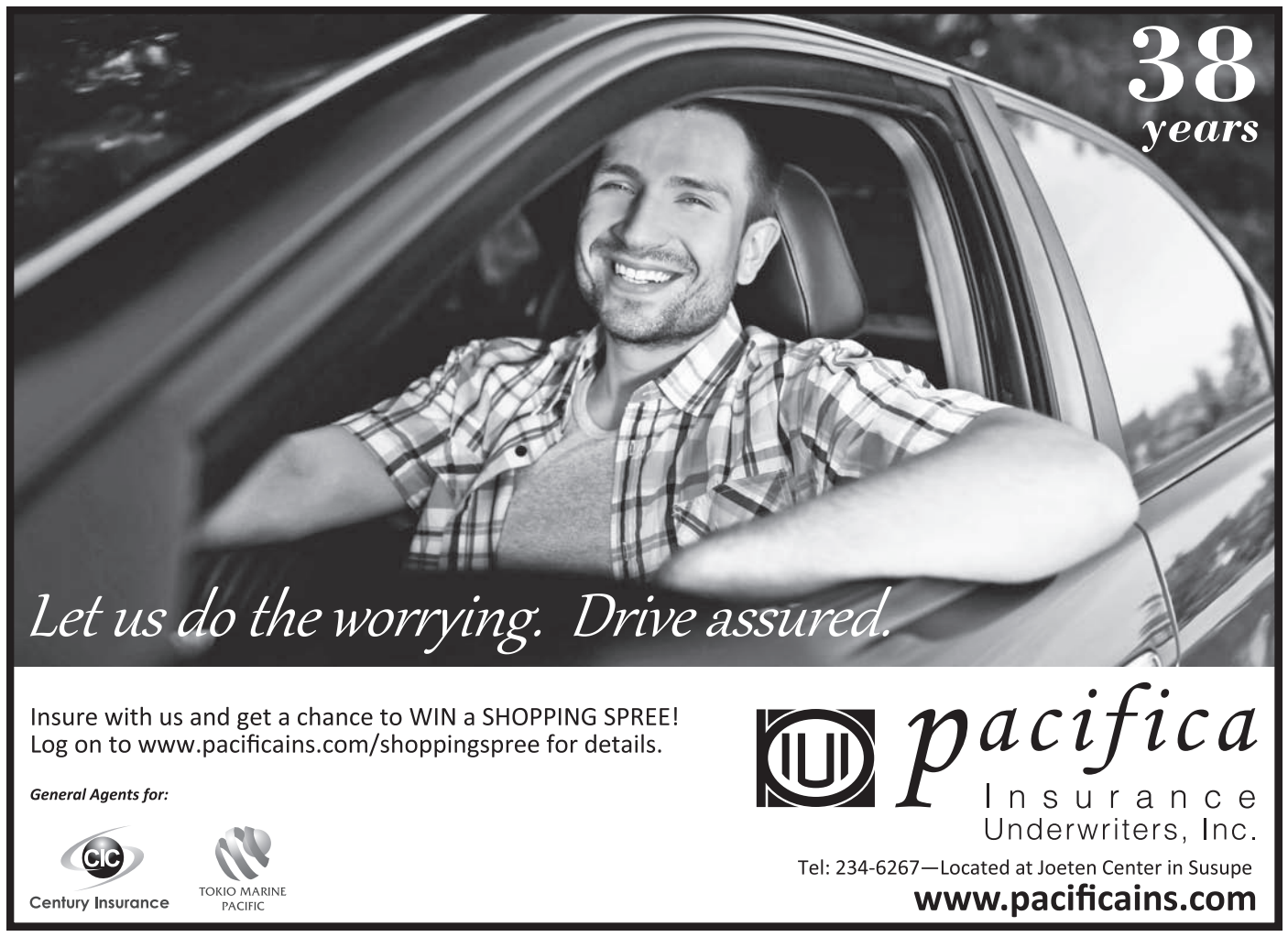
Huesman said the Fund does not believe that there is a compelling public interest to be served through the disclosure of beneficiaries' personal, sensitive financial information.

Huesman earlier disclosed that over the past three years, the Fund's payment of benefits to beneficiaries and operating expenses averaged approximately $77.9 million per year.

In contrast, he said, during those same years, the Fund's funding (consisting of employee contributions, returns on investments, and employer contributions) has averaged approximately $30.9 million per year.

"As a result of such continuous underfunding, which necessitated withdrawing from its portfolio to cover funding shortfalls, the value of the [Fund's] assets has fallen from $353,475,412.00 in 2009 to its current level of $268,448,997.84," Huesman said.

The Fund, he added, is subject to liabilities (both current and actuarial) totaling approximately $911 million. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



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Trina Ito newly certified as pharmacy technician

"I think if was just fate," said Gregoria Trina Ito, who passed her exam last Wednesday to become a U.S. Certified Pharmacy Technician. "Three years ago, my work for Immigration was ending and my sister suggested I apply at Brabu Pharmacy. I didn't know what to expect. During my interview, my boss said that as a new business he didn't know if it would succeed, or how many hours he could offer me, but I took the job anyway."

Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center opened in June 2009, with only two employees. April Aldan, having cashiering experience in a pharmacy, immediately began training to become a pharmacy technician, an aspiration she had for some time. Having worked for just one month, her family made plans to move to the mainland. She decided to move with them and finish her studies in California.

"It was fate again," said Ito, "I was just hired as a cashier two weeks before when April told me she was leaving. I only had a couple of days to catch on. It was all new, but I got a lot of encouragement and I really liked what I was learning."

Ted Parker, co-owner and manager of Brabu Pharmacy, pressed Ito to start training as a pharmacy technician. "I firmly believe in encouraging my staff to keep learning and expanding their responsibilities. Striving to meet new challenges improves a person's self-confidence and leads to other rewards, financially and personally. Trina was obviously a hard worker and caught on quickly. I knew that she would make a great technician once she set her mind to it. We just needed to help remove some of the hurdles to her meeting that goal, like paying for classes, providing a salary while she trained, and funding her travel to Guam for the certification exam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Gregoria Trina Ito, who passed her exam last Wednesday to become a U.S. Certified Pharmacy Technician, demonstrates the exam to fellow Brabu Pharmacy employees and co-owner Ted Parker.

Jean Rabauliman, now one of nine employees working at Brabu Pharmacy, became certified as a pharmacy technician in 2008, while working for Parker at another business. Rabauliman helped register Ito for online training, provided her with personal insight about the process, and acted as her mentor through her training. "Trina was a fast learner, I was confident that she would pass her certification exam, though I remember how nerve wracking it was, taking a test that lasted several hours. We're all very proud of her success."

Parker emphasized that Brabu will continue to hire and train locally. A new employee, Kina Sablan, is now also being encouraged to seek her certification, with Ito acting as her mentor.

"The limit to how many people we can provide with hands-on-training is only limited by sufficient funding. It is so important that businesses hire locally and spend time training personnel to fill those positions that have long been understaffed on island, especially in health care," Parker said.

In order, to meet funding requirements Brabu Pharmacy has partnered with Brabu Komunidat, a newly formed 501(c)3 non-profit. Brabu Komunidat is dedicated to promoting total wellness within the island community, especially for those underserved, by enhancing individual health and a positive sense of self, through programs that provide opportunities for personal growth, improved health and livelihoods, and living conditions. Those interested in learning more about Brabu Komunidat, wishing to contribute funds toward further learning opportunities, or just curious about pharmacy work are invited to stop by Brabu Pharmacy any time Monday through Friday 9am to 1pm, or call 233-(AMOT) 2668. ***(Brabu)***

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Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 18, 2000

Saipan mayor earmarks $200K for machine shop
The Saipan local government has earmarked some $200,000 from its Fiscal Year 2000 supplemental budget for the purchase of a fabrication facility in Lower Base, Mayor Jose C. Sablan disclosed yesterday. Mr. Sablan said the fabrication facility, which was purchased from Senator Ramon S. Guerrero, will be used as the maintenance hub of the local government's equipment that includes dump trucks. He said the facility is equipped with a generator which should be of important use in the local government's efforts to keep its equipment in good condition.

US Ombudsman justifies hiring of resident alien
Federal Ombudsman Pamela Brown yesterday justified the employment of a resident alien at the U.S. Labor Office on Saipan despite allegations that the recently hired employee had been convicted of violating local labor laws. Ms. Brown said Min Fu Kirk was hired by the Labor Ombudsman Office to provide translation and caseworker services necessary for conducting interviews based on her high proficiency in both Cantonese and Mandarin languages, as well as her immigration status. She said Kirk showed superior knowledge of the Chinese language and is familiar with the local business sector and labor laws, which were the bases of her employment with the Ombudsman Office.

May 18, 2001

Fitial vows to solicit federal funds for local infra projects
House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial yesterday promised to help the Commonwealth Ports Authority solicit additional funds from the federal government for major improvements at the CNMI's air and sea transport facilities. Mr. Fitial said moves are now underway to secure financial assistance from the Department of Transportation to speed up rehabilitation and improvement projects of airports and harbors in the Northern Marianas. Mr. Fitial said the CNMI Legislature's lower house will work with US Representative John T. Doolittle and other members of the US Congress and the Bush Administration to facilitate the release of federal funds for the islands' transport facilities.

Teno calls for stricter compliance with labor laws
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday vowed to use an iron fist to carry out labor reforms and mete out stiffer penalties to public and private firms violating local and federal labor laws. The governor declared an all-out war against labor abuses saying that the administration will no longer condone these malpractices. He said the government has made a commitment to improve the Northern Marianas labor situation and all avenues will be carefully scrutinized to uncover any violations by any companies operating in the CNMI. "We are carefully examining these corrections and the violations which happened in the past. The administration doesn't want any of these to happen again," said Mr. Tenorio in an interview.

May 18, 2003

RP housing program cuts rates for Filipinos abroad
The Philippines' Pag-Ibig Overseas Program, a voluntary savings plan for overseas Filipinos, has lowered its interest rates for housing loans from 9-17 percent to 6-12 percent per annum in Philippine peso. The savings program, also called POP, gives Filipino overseas workers, immigrants, and permanent residents an opportunity to save for their future and to avail of a housing loan in the Philippines. The lowered interest rate, coupled with the strength of the U.S. dollar against the peso, would allow members the opportunity to pay less this time.

'SARS data puzzling, confusing'
After months of laboratory tests and medical studies, the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome remains mysterious and puzzling, with recent findings in Canada showing that some people who were not diagnosed with SARS symptoms turned out to have the virus, while those tagged as having SARS yielded negative of the virus. Dr. Frank Plummer, scientific head of Winnipeg's National Microbiology Laboratory, told a recent international congress on SARS that testing for the coronavirus that is believed to cause SARS has turned up "a puzzling, possibly troubling finding." Plummer disclosed that the national microbiology laboratory has found evidence of the SARS coronavirus in 14 percent of roughly 550 people who were under investigation for SARS but who never met the case definition.

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Chicken Wings	$11.99
Chicken Nuggets	$11.99
Mackerel Fish	$5.99
Pork Hock	$6.99
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Pork Bellies	$11.99
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Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash $1.99 6.5 OZ.

Hormel Chili with Beans $1.69 15 OZ.
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Morton Salt 85¢ 450 gm
Vlasic Sliced Dill Pickle $6.49 1 GAL.
Dinty Moore Beef Stew $1.69 15 OZ.
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Royal Spaghetti Noodle $2.49 1 kg.
Excellent Rice Stick 99¢ 227G

Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce (all kinds) $1.59 26.5oz.
Del Monte Whole Corn 99¢ 15 OZ.
Kellogg's Tri-pak 58 oz. $13.99
General MIlls Tri-pak $8.99
Frosted Flakes 17 oz. $3.79
Argo Corn Starch 99¢ 1 LB.
Gold Medal Flour $3.49 37.02 OZ.
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Tang Orange $7.99 22 QTS.
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Folgers Coffee $11.99 33.3 OZ.
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Golden State Vinegar $3.99 2 1 GAL.
Wilkins Water $2.99 6000ML
Pringles (All Kinds) $1.99
Quaker Oats (Oatmeal) $4.49 42 OZ.
Shim Ramyun Noodles Soup $11.49 CASE

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Kool-Aid Jammers/ Caprisun $2.99 BOX
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Opinion

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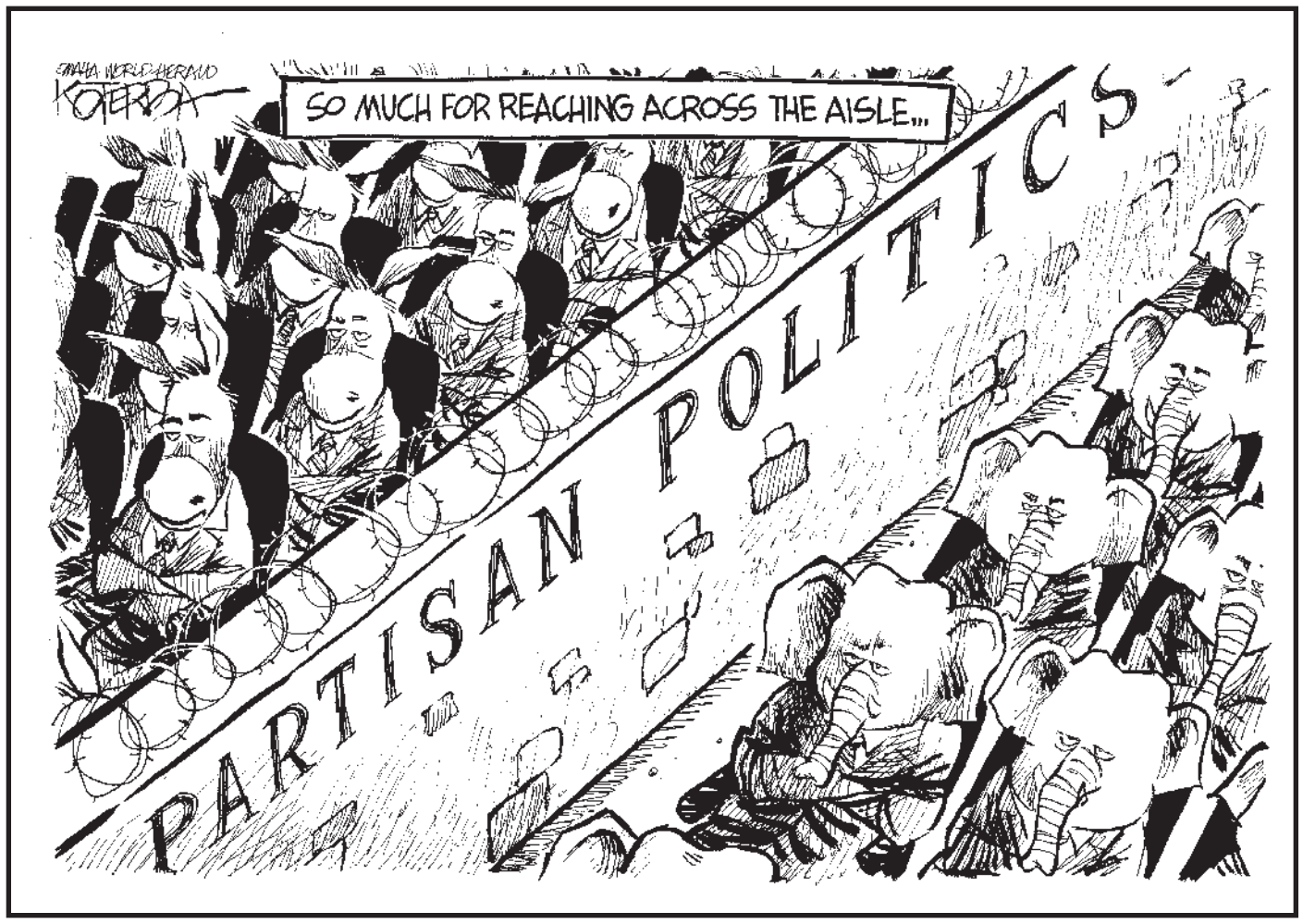


Immigration and the new old me

By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ
Los Angeles Times

Gregory Rodriguez is executive director of the Center for Social Cohesion at Arizona State University and a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at grodriguez@latimescolumnists.com.*

The news that Mexican immigration to the United States has come to a virtual halt has me thinking about all the ways that will change things. It will affect politics, culture, labor and the nation's racial climate. And it will also change how we see each other and ourselves as Americans and as Californians, me included.

I'm one of those mythical native Californians you might have read about. I was born near the corner of Sunset and Vermont in Hollywood. My father was born in L.A. and baptized, as was I, at La Placita Church downtown. My mom was born in northern San Diego County and baptized at the San Antonio de Pala mission there. My paternal great-grandfather arrived in the U.S.—Arizona—from Mexico in 1893. My family has been American so long that sometimes I think I should wear one of those buckled Pilgrim hats.

And yet, despite my rootedness in Southern California, migration has had an inordinate effect on my life, especially my intellectual and professional life. I've always been something of a tour guide, interpreter and even a booster for my regional homeland. As a young Dodgers fan I always resented that half the stadium would root for the Chicago Cubs. I pronounced the glories of L.A. to my friends whose parents longed for the hometowns—New York, Milwaukee, Saigon—they left behind. (And then there's my love life. I once realized that most of the women whose lives have collided with mine were from families—Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese, German, Mexican—that arrived here because of migration's big catalyst: wars we fought or labor shortages caused by those wars.)

As a kid, of course, some still saw my ethnicity and skin color as signs of my being an outsider. In third grade I was called the "N-word." By the 11th, the haters had wised up and switched to more "accurate" ethnic slurs. There were also incidents outside school, and what they all had in common was that they were committed by white kids who had fewer choices than I did. Their words stung, but they didn't keep me from being elected class president. As a suburban upper-middle-class kid from an educated family, I pretty much felt I could be what I wanted to be, and I chose to be an Angeleno.

Back then, although I was sometimes rudely reminded that I was supposedly lesser than white folk, my identity as an American, a Mexican-American and a local was secure and expansive. Sure, in college more than a few people just figured I was from the barrio. But my ethnicity wasn't automatically assumed to determine all my cultural tastes or political stances.

But that began to change as Mexican immigration reached historic numbers. In 1970, 84 percent of adult Latinos in L.A. County were U.S.-born, and the majority of them were the grandchildren of immigrants. Twenty years later, that number had been turned upside down: two-thirds of adult Latinos here were foreign-born. Suddenly, like many latter-generation Mexican-Americans, I had to grapple with immigration and what it meant for me, my city, my country.

Businesses of all sorts, including newspapers, started looking for educated English-dominant Latinos to interpret the newly transformed marketplace. Once again I found myself in the position of interpreter, not as the prideful insider I'd been growing up but as an observer of a cultural shift.

See IMMIGRATION on Next Page

Article 12: What it didn't say

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

We all must endeavor with civility discussing, in deliberative fashion, not so much what Article 12 said but *what it didn't say* that comprises the most egregious and fundamentally flawed aspect of such provision.

It's the outright denial of full ownership and disposition of land for private landowners. While it seems to have denoted ownership, a critical review reveals it has failed to state it expressly with finality. As such, it matters that you review it critically (read between the lines) to secure clarity and finality how it quietly robs you of your rights.

This stealth or clandestine aspect of Article 12 isn't obvious, though I suspect it was crafted this way to see if the indigenous people could catch its very flaw. Yes, I have read and reread it to understand what it says. But something kept echoing in my mind rather strangely: The same constitutional provision took away my rights as a private landowner from making final disposition or decision on my land. It requires seeking permission from others before I could freely decide the use or fate of my land.

As you analyze it, you eventually ask yourself: Can something be mine and *not* mine at the same time? This is the nature and dictates of the beast we know of as Article 12. Indeed, it easily sways one to slobber in the feel-good resonance of the term "protection" of indigenous land. But how can my rights be protected when Article 12 denies me my full right to ownership? Who do I go to for such permission? The founding authors who've used the term "protection" as a simple mouthwash? Do they even know the monstrosity they've created?

The one aspect such provision proposes to permanently change is the current land tenure system of "individual" ownership. It openly permits elected and appointed officials to take a portion of your private land for future use by the landless. It permits others to be part-owners of your private land. It's a socialistic approach to landownership or a collectivist posture to willfully take your land for its own purposes at some point in the future. Is this collectivist arrangement an acceptable disposition or disruption of landownership so mandated under this provision?

Understandably, the other ulterior motive hardly used or explained by the powers-that-be is the fact that keeping Article 12 grants them more time and opportunity to rule the political landscape at will. Definitely, none of the key proponents to retaining this provision have the gall to say so openly. But this is the motive behind their quietude lest they permanently become political dinosaurs. Tell them without hesitancy that ignorance isn't an option on this and other rights issues that are solely the purview of governance.

■■■

Must use intellectual integrity

Midsize and large investors have become fatigued (mentally and financially) by the legal battle they had to endure that originates from Article 12. Indeed, they thought with their feet: closed shop and simply went elsewhere. And they drained the local economy of some $5 billion to $7 billion in revenues that used to be recycled locally.

This financial drain has resulted in the huge plunge of local revenues from $256 million annually a decade ago to a meager $102 million today. Thus, the local government battles bankruptcy never before seen in NMI history. *A`Saina!*

Sure, one can don the role of an ostrich by blindly arguing that such discriminatory constitutional provision has no relationship with the huge plunge of the local economy. But the deployment of large investors who took with them their lifetime savings of some $7 billion ought to raise a huge red flag that something has gone seriously wrong at home.

What do you think is the most adversely egregious issue? Isn't it the racist attitude of Article 12, co-opted by a legal system that doesn't provide for "equal protection"? Why continue investing or reinvesting in a place that denies the same "equal protection" to those legally situated? Are they meager cogs in meeting our revenue needs and must we not also welcome them as they assimilate as permanent partners? We must probe this issue beyond adolescency. It's a must, today!

The vicious and serious economic downturn adversely affected not the taxpayer-paid politicians on the hill but the simple villagers who must endure the hardship left as a legacy of failed leadership. It's an economic indicator that all must investigate to the hilt because its devastating effects hit villagers the hardest. Isn't leadership about improving the welfare of others first? Too, *we've simply opted to deny ourselves the intellectual integrity to discuss this issue with some sense of responsibility to promote justice.* The onus is on the indigenous people who not only support denial of full landownership, but discrimination for our fellow man. Why have we given up humanity in what's right? Where's our sense of spiritual justice?

You may wish to firm up the partnership in grime syndrome, displaying immaturity at every turn. But don't forget that our people too have matured and their disposition on this matter would make it harder for you to peddle and sell the same filthy rags of bigotry and racism. It's time to employ reasonable maturity in promoting equal protection and justice for all rather than drown shamefully in the sea of self-deception, racism, and discrimination.

See ARTICLE 12 on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The private investigator

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Last week I offered a slice of Americana, which was so much fun I'm going to offer a second serving. After all, what could be more American than enjoying seconds? Only one thing: A private investigator.

Just about everyone has their favorite PIs from fiction. The genre appealed to the old American penchant for independence and adventure, combined with the intrigues of mystery and a sense of justice.

Much of it was film noir ("noir" means "black" in French), the old black-and-white dramas that often had a B-grade, budget feel to them. They'd often feature a cynical, hardscrabble, lone-wolf PI, his beautiful receptionist of loyal disposition and unquestionable virtue, and a seductive damsel of flighty disposition and questionable virtue. The settings were usually urban, with gray streets and drab buildings, the leaden atmosphere punctuated only by the occasional glare of a neon sign.

As for the bad guys, they were an array of con-men, hustlers, dupes, stool pigeons, toadies, hoods, and heavies. This cast needs no introduction if you follow Saipan's economic scandals.

The Maltese Falcon, made in 1941, staring Humphrey Bogart as private investigator Sam Spade, is said to be a famous example of the genre. Yeah, it's old school now, but even in today's Asia I've seen American-themed restaurants festooned with film noir kitsch and photos.

Just as the PI genre reached past borders, it also reached into various media. In the radio realm, one of many such programs was "Yours truly, Johnny Dollar," which ran from 1949 to 1962. That's before my time, but I knew a guy in college who had some cassette recordings of the shows and that's how I got to hear some of them. It was great stuff.

Books live in posterity better than radio does, and two years after the demise of the Johnny Dollar show came a new twist on the by-then well-worn PI genre, courtesy of a writer named John D. MacDonald and his character Travis McGee.

For purists, I'll note that McGee was not technically a PI. He called himself a "salvage expert." But the distinction is merely semantic, and he strikes me as the new, improved PI: Smarter, more eloquent, broader-thinking, less seedy.

The first of 21 Travis McGee books was *The Deep Blue Goodbye*. A few years ago I hunted down and stashed away an original 1964 edition, and it has suitably go-go 1960s cover art. The series ended with *The Lonely Silver Rain* in 1984. I like all the books but the first is my favorite.

Author MacDonald was an interesting character himself, a former Army officer and a Harvard MBA who passed up a promising business career to become a mystery writer.

As for McGee, he lived on a boat in Florida. Sometimes he was busy working on a caper. Other times he was socially idle, drinking gin cocktails with his boating pals. His laid-back, sun-drenched lifestyle is a natural fit for the Saipan outlook, and, indeed, I've known a few Travis McGee fans in the CNMI. Sometimes Bestseller Bookstore has some Travis McGee books in stock, but right now they don't. Incidentally, the only reason I know how to spell "zoris" is that I saw the term in a McGee book.

And still going with an island theme, I'll mention a famous TV show, *Magnum, P.I.,* which was set in Hawaii and ran from 1980 to 1988. I'm not TV savvy so I don't know much about it, but it strikes me that it followed the trajectory of the McGee series, getting further away from the gray, urban settings of film noir and more toward exotic and enjoyable settings with a hero that is closer to "gentleman" than "rogue."

Anyway, just looking at these few highlights of the genre has taken us from 1941 through 1988, which is a solid chunk of time indeed. I'm not hip enough on modern culture to know what, if anything, is brewing in this realm. Maybe it has already peaked, and a diminishing number of people will just enjoy the stuff from the golden days, until we and it all fade into obscurity. Or, maybe a new refinement is in the works and the genre is still evolving.

Still, what endures, if only in posterity, was the image of the independent man surviving by his courage and by his wits, often living hand-to-mouth, usually with a beautiful woman in the picture, but always without a guarantee that the caper would be resolved in his favor. It was a form of escapism for the audience, but the stories were plausible enough to make it easy to suspend disbelief and get immersed in them. And, of course, everybody likes a story of good guys vs. bad guys, no matter what the genre.

I've sometimes sat having a cold one on Saipan, surrounded by lively characters, and if Travis McGee himself sat next to me and said hello, I would not be surprised at all. In fact, I'm surprised he never did just that. After all, Saipan would be his kind of place: There's plenty of sunshine to enjoy, and plenty of capers to solve.

Oh, and plenty of zoris, too.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CNMI permanent residents

This is in response to my brother's letter and your May 16, 2012, article regarding CNMI permanent residents. From the press secretary's comments on your May 16 article, I can see how irresponsible the CNMI government is and couldn't care less about these CNMI LPRs.

I just cannot believe them talking about Public Law 110-229 just to defend themselves and to keep themselves innocent from what's happening. We're not asking them to change the law. We're asking them to help these CNMI LPRs that they gave status to, back in 1985, from the laws they signed with the federal government. Don't hit us with pointless excuses.

These CNMI LPRs are people who have been on the island for decades, holding their own businesses, paying tax, and contributing so much to the CNMI community. And disregard them? Saying things like, "This matter was never brought to the attention of the administration"? Hello! Isn't the government supposed to be making sure all their people are treated correctly? And don't tell me government officials are not aware of anything unless someone feed them with the info!

I currently work for a company that helps various "nonresidents" process visas and permits, so I have opportunities to correspond with Mr. David Gulick as well as other USCIS offices in the mainland quite a lot. I actually was the one who asked Mr. Gulick upon his last session at the Multi-Purpose Center regarding the CNMI LPRs, only to find out that they may have to be parolees for the rest of their lives, biannualy renewing their parole, their $380 EAD, and $360 advance parole whenever they need to leave this island. Which was shocking. I myself is a CW (contract worker), even though I spent my younger years on Saipan, attending Mount Carmel School with my brother, simply because I left the island when our mother had a brain tumor and had to be taken back to Japan where she passed away after 16 years of disabled life. But still, it was shocking to know, having two CNMI LPRs in my own family—a disabled father who had just passed last Saturday and my one and only dearest brother.

As for me, the biggest problem is the fact that USCIS still don't understand the significance of these CNMI LPRs and their full right to be granted permanent status, after all that I did last November, corresponding directly with Mr. Gulick, when the CNMI LPRs were banned from working in the CNMI unless they achieve the EAD card. In addition to that, as my brother spoke about, I think that the CNMI government should be working on this problem way ahead of us, to be responsible for the status they had given to their people (and don't tell me CNMI LPRs aren't their people). If the government is so undependable that they can't stand up even for their own people, I'm ready to stand up for these LPRs.

Mami Ikeda
Gualo Rai, Saipan

IMMIGRATION

From Page 10

It was impossible not to be swept up in the debate over immigration, legal and illegal. Though immigrant-bashers always insisted their beef was with illegal immigrants, long-established Mexican-Americans were not immune from their invective. A combination of demographic change and a polarized debate had imposed the specter of foreignness—even illegality—on all of us.

And stereotyping didn't come just from your racist yahoos. A few years ago, the organizer of a Los Angeles Times-sponsored event asked me to sit on a panel discussing democracy in Latin America. Although I had written a weekly column for the paper for six years, she didn't seem to get that the focus of my writing, my expertise, has always been U.S. society.

There are worse assumptions, to be sure. But in my career, I've had to contend with my apparent foreignness over and over. You'd be shocked to know how many smart people presume to know what I like or think based on my last name, or ascribe beliefs to me based on my ethnicity. And then there are the people who insist on speaking to me in pidgin Spanish.

Now comes the end of the largest wave of immigration from a single nation in U.S. history. It carries all sorts of benefits.

Mexico can start rebuilding a civil society that's been hemorrhaging productive people for far too long. California, where migration from other states is all but over as well, now has an emerging homegrown majority population that has a demonstrably intense attachment to its state. After a generation of massive global migration, it's high time for all of us to settle in and make ourselves at home.

This time, I think I'll interpret it for myself. As an Angeleno, same as I ever was.

ARTICLE 12

From Page 10

■■■

It's a matter of policy!

Had the opportunity to listen to the discussion by Reps. Felicidad Ogumuro and Ramon Basa on the Gonzales show. It pertains to exhausted efforts to approve a casino initiative and establishment of firms here for tax purposes. It demonstrates the obvious disconnect in peddling band-aid solutions versus the tide of a humongous economic mess.

At best, the measures offered are shortsighted, at worst, delusional. Did the casino expert show legislators the marketing aspect of this half-cocked dissertation? In brief, this industry has failed on Tinian and Rota, given the lack of rich and wealthy players to support it. Would opening one on Saipan change this factual issue—lack of an opulent market to ensure a healthy sector?

Are Ogumuro and Basa equally aware of the adverse social effects of casino against communities in the U.S.? Didn't poker ruin families here? Didn't governance shoot this issue down twice? Why the dismissive arrogance against the voice of governance?

In his younger days, Stanley Ho made a survey of casino here. Others casino magnates have done their due diligence to see if the CNMI is ripe for such an industry. Steve Wynn is poised to commence building his second casino of some $2.5 billion in Cotai, Macau. Why didn't he invest here? Others now look at Japan as the next venue given its 26 million wealthy folks who could toy around with their disposable income. Does the CNMI have wealthy folks other than over 10K food stamp recipients?

The disastrous local economy requires a plan beyond band-aid solutions. Peddling shortsighted measures only confirms the ability of policymakers to avoid being infected by the virus of reason and wisdom. It is for this reason that the long-term business climate here would stagnate for as long as the NMI doesn't buckle down to taking critical review of current policies on investments.

Saddling businesses with another layer of taxes in the midst of an economic disaster is a tale of the shallowness of policymaking here. Policy makes all the difference whether we make it or break it in a dystopia.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

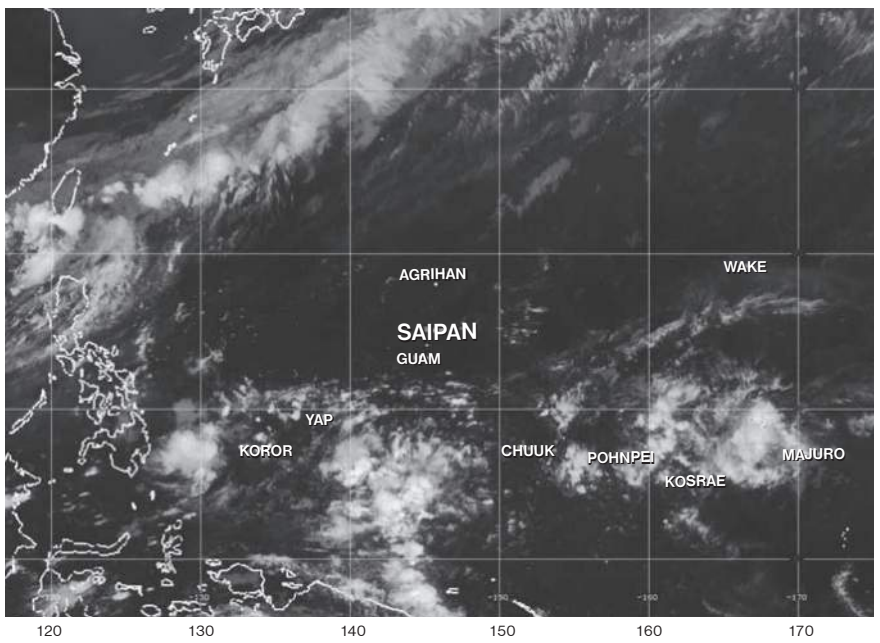
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼56
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼60
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲85	▼80
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼71
London	Showers	▲58	▼51
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼57
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼82
Melbourne	Showers	▲63	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲85	▼74
New York	Sunny	▲72	▼53
Osaka	Sunny	▲76	▼55
Paris	Rain	▲60	▼50
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼59
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼54
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼40
San Francisco	Sunny	▲66	▼51
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼54
Tokyo	Sunny	▲74	▼57
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲77	▼57

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from 5N130E through a weak circulation centered just southeast of Koror at 5N137E then turns southeastward to end at EQ143E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found southeast of Koror south of a line from 8N139E to 8N144E. Isolated thunderstorms are found near Koror and Yap within 125 miles of a line from 8N131E to 10N139E to 10N148E. Convergent trade winds are producing scattered showers just east of Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 10N153E to 5N156E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from east of Kwajalein to just north of Kosrae to near Pohnpei within 220 miles of a line from 8N159E to 8N170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
12:47 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
6:20 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:33 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
8:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:36 AM	4:27 PM
Saturday	4:16 AM	5:15 PM
Sunday	4:58 AM	6:05 PM
Monday	5:43 AM	6:55 PM
Tuesday	6:29 AM	7:44 PM

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
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  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; UA: United; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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Garapan Happy Market

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MAY 18-20, 2012

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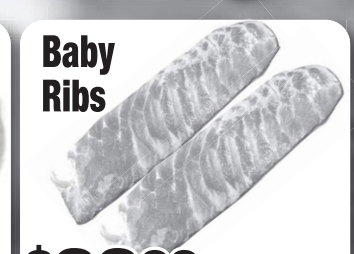
$25.99 50 LBS.
~~Reg. $29.99~~

Chicken Leg Quarter
~~$26.99~~
$19.99 22 LBS.

Whole Chicken
$38.99 30 LBS.

Baby Ribs
$22.99 /CASE



Spareribs
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SAVE $2.00
~~Reg. $6.99~~
$4.99

Magnolia Pure Water
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~~Reg. $9.99~~
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$6.99 /case 355ml 35 bottles

U.S. Eggs XL
$2.29 /DOZ.

Golden Créme Ice Cream
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~~Reg. $4.99~~
$3.99

Bacon
$3.29

Vega Shrimp
$5.59

Bar S Jumbo Franks
$1.19 /PKG

Butane Gas
$3.75 /PACK
$22.99 /CASE

Ichiban
$10.95 /BOX

Spam (All Flavors)
$2.39

Ox & Palm Corned Beef
$2.99

Black Label
$1.79

Vlassic Dill Pickles Sliced
$5.99

Turkey Tail
NO LIMIT
$19.99 /CASE

Sandwich Mate Cheese
$1.99
Buy 2 for $2.99

Hot Pockets
$3.99 /PACK

Hot Smoked Sausage 2.5lbs
$6.99 /PACK

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$1.99
Buy 2 for $2.99

Rice Stick 16 oz.
~~Reg. $1.99~~/each
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WF 100% Juice All Flavors
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WF Cherry/ Blueberry Pie Filling 21oz.
$3.99 EACH

Libby's Pumpkin Pie Mix 30oz.
$4.29

WF Extra Virgin Olive Oil 17oz.
$6.99

Crisco Pure Vegetable Oil 1 Gal
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Colgate Regular 150ml
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$6.99 90 OZ.

Dawn Dish.
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Palmolive Shampoo & Conditioner
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NEW PRICES WILL EFFECT ON 21 MAY 2012
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#3,#5,#6,#7,#8 REBAR $850.00/ST
MADE IN KOREA
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JOINT COMPOUND $21.00 5 GAL.
ELECTRICAL PIPE 1/2" $2.40 | 3/4" $2.90
NEW ARRIVALS OF CERAMIC TILES 12"*12" $0.89/pc • 8"*12" $0.60/pc
CPVC PIPE 1/2" $18.00 • 3/4" $26.00 • 1" $35.00
OTHERS
CEMENT $7.50/BAG
DELIVERY CHARGE TO TINIAN-$3.00/BAG
SEMI-GLOSS INT. & EXT. LATEX $19.50/GAL | $79.99/PAIL
FLAT INT. & EXT. LATEX (PRIMER) $17.50/GAL | $69.50/PAIL
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2X4X14... $4.95 2X6X16... $8.90
2X4X16... $5.70 2X6X18... $9.90
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Volunteers needed to paint Tanapag center

The Inetnon Amot yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw, in partnership with the Office of the Mayor of Saipan and the Tanapag Parish Council, is looking for volunteers to help paint the Tanapag Community Center (across from the Tanapag Church) this Saturday, May 19, 2012, from 8am to 4pm. Paints and brushes will be provided, but you may bring your own paint brush. Lunch will also be provided.

With the new look and a little renovation at the Center, the Tanapag Community Center will also be a part-time Chamorro-Carolinian village cultural center where traditional Chamorro and Carolinian knowledge and practices may be taught on some Saturdays throughout the year.

Funding for the painting and renovation of the Tanapag Community Center was provided in part by a grant from the Administration for Native Americans, an agency under the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department Health and Human Services, to the Inetnon Amot yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwiilschil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw. For more information, call 322-0278. ***(PR)***

29th Agricultural Fair coming up

The Saipan Agricultural Fair Association is inviting the public to the 29th Agricultural Fair scheduled for Saturday, May 26, 2012, at the Sabalu Market Grounds.

There will also be a proclamation signing on Saturday, May 19, 2012, at 9am at the Sabalu Market Grounds, designating the week of May 20 to 26 as "Simanan Lanchero." ***(PR)***

Marines, Air Force, Navy training on FDM

The U.S. Marine Corps, Air Force and Navy is conducting training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla today May 18, from 8am to 11pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

Chamber to host currency training

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host a Credit Card and Currency Training session, presented by U.S. Secret Service trainers, on June 4, 2012, at 2pm.

As a result of a number of incidents recently where counterfeit currency has been seized in Guam and on Saipan, the U.S. Secret Service will be visiting Saipan to conduct a number of sessions for one day only, June 4, 2012.

SCC will notify all SCC Members of the location for the training sessions as we approach June 4, and will provide all other details. At this time, the training sessions would be made available to Chamber Members at no cost. There would be a nominal attendance fee for non-Members. ***(SCC)***

Sr. Remedios registration schedule

The Sr. Remedios Early Childhood Development Center announces the registration for the next school year 2012-2013 beginning on April 2 to May 31. From April 2 to May 31 the registration fee is $75. After May 31, the registration fee is $100. For more information contact the school at 234-6247; Fax: 235-1411; Email: srrecdc@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

FOA membership meeting

The Friends of the Arts will have its final membership meeting of the year at the Marianas Resort at its outdoor La Stella Restaurant on Tuesday evening, May 22, beginning at 6:30pm. Enjoy a delicious menu and great entertainment provided by FOA and the award-winning MHS Glee Club with more performers to be added.

The cost of the meal for members and their families will be $15 for adults and young adults 12 and above, $8 for youngsters 5 up to 11, and no cost for the little ones 4 and younger. As the cost of the meal is subsidized by FOA, the cost of the meal for non-members will be $20. Send an email to Gibson to confirm your attendance. ***(FOA)***

Discounted rates offered for Zumba class at NMC

The Northern Marianas College through the Community Development Institute is offering discounted rates for individuals who wish to take a short-term Zumba course that begins today, May 18, 2012.

The fee for the Zumba course has been reduced to $45 per individual if participants refer one individual to register for the course, which equates to $5 per class session. This discount will also be given to the individuals referred. However, the course fee is $90 for those who do not refer others to take the course.

The Zumba course will continue every Monday and Friday until the last day on June 15, 2012. The schedule is 5pm to 6pm at the NMC As Terlaje campus. To register, or for information about these courses, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call 234-5498 ext. 1005/1010/1019 or e-mail Orrin Pharmin at orrinp@nmcnet.edu. ***(PR)***

2012 models have arrived!
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The Kia Sportage
Designed for the next level.
The dynamic new Sportage is defined by its bold sporty design. Advanced technology abounds from its power plant and suspension system to its collision countermeasures. Its spacious ergonomically designed interior completes the package.
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* Kia Sportage total price $21,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $348.40 or $160.80 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price $20,904.00. Kia Forte total price $17,195.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $272.37 or $125.71 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price $16,342.20. Documentation fees and registration not included.

EVEN AFTER CHAPTER 11 BANKRUPTCY FILING

Fund: Employers must still remit contributions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NMI Retirement Fund administrator Richard S. Villagomez told government department heads, autonomous agencies, and government instrumentalities to "continue to remit all contributions until otherwise ordered" in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings.

Villagomez issued a May 7 memo in response to a number of questions that have arisen regarding the continued requirement to pay employer contributions.

"Please be advised that this requirement is part of the contract with the Retirement Fund that is within the protection of the United States Bankruptcy Court," Villagomez said in his two-page memo.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said Wednesday that the fiscal year 2012 budget law sets aside $10 million for the government's employer contribution to the Fund and continues to remit such. The Fund earlier asked that this allocation be increased to at least $25 million.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Code brought into effect an automatic stay of actions that are harmful to the Fund.

"This protection is at the heart of the Chapter 11 process, and is intended to maximize the ability of financially-distressed entities to use the tools provided under the Bankruptcy Code to reorganize for the benefit of creditors and stakeholders," Villagomez said in his two-page memo.

Among the actions now forbidden by federal law absent prior permission of the bankruptcy court are (a) the commencement or continuation of actions of proceedings against a debtor that were, or could have been, commenced prior to initiation of the Chapter 11 proceeding; and (b) any act to obtain possession of property of or from the Fund or to exercise control over property of the Fund.

Since the Fund is statutorily and contractually entitled to receive employer and employee benefits, Villagomez said that "any attempt by the Commonwealth's departments or agencies to withhold such contributions from the Fund would constitute a violation of the automatic stay, as an attempt to 'exercise control over property of the estate.'"

The Fund administrator said government departments, autonomous agencies, and instrumentalities "must bring contributions current for all retiring employees before their applications to retire will be processed."

He cited Board Resolution BR08-001, where eligibility for retirement processing is conditioned on payment of employer and employee contributions to the retirement date.

Villagomez said the Fund board has, on behalf of all Fund members, sought and obtained a ruling that these contracts of employment were breached by the failure to make these required employer contributions.

He added that Public Law 16-36 provides that the Commonwealth government, its departments, divisions, municipalities, public corporations, autonomous agencies and offices shall prioritize and pay the full employer contributions of government employees who are eligible to retire from government service; and that the administrator shall "upon receipt" of such employer contribution, accept and provide full pension to government employees who are eligible to retire.

"Accordingly, prior to final processing of any retirement application, all employer contributions for the affected employee must be remitted in full," he added.

The NMI Retirement Fund is the first public pension agency on U.S. soil to seek bankruptcy protection, serving as a litmus test to other troubled agencies not only in the U.S. but other parts of the globe as well.

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SAIPAN

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Will be providing beginning

American Red Cross

SUMMER SWIMMING LESSONS

at the Mariana Resort Hotel Pool and
Kan Pacific 50M Swimming Pool
JUNE 13 to JUNE 16, 2012

Swim Lessons will be conducted by the swimmers and coaches from the Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan

REGISTRATION
AT THE MARIANA RESORT HOTEL POOL SIDE • 9:30 AM : WEDNESDAY JUNE 13, 2012

PRE-REGISTRATION
ACCEPTED BY EMAILING Ms. YUKO KIMURA AT: tsunamisaipan@yahoo.co.jp or CALL 989-8425.
When we confirm your children we will give you confirmation number for you. Please keep it.
Will be first come, first serve basis

CHILDREN MUST BE AT LEAST 5 YEARS OLD, *NO TODDLERS PLEASE*.

1	LESSON START	10:00-11:00 AM	JUN 13 (WED)	at MRH pool
2	SECOND LESSON	10:00-11:00 AM	JUN 14 (THU)	at 50m pool
3	THIRD LESSON	10:00-11:00 AM	JUN 15 (FRI)	at 50m pool
4	FOURTH LESSON&FINAL	10:00-11:00 AM	JUN 16 (SAT)	at 50m pool

COST IS $25/CHILD AND SECOND AND MORE PER FAMILY IS $20 EACH.
Red Cross Certificates will be issued after the lessons.

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STOCK # AM501506
$29,995.00*

2010 Honda Civic LX
STOCK # AE035279
$16,995.00*

2009 Nissan Altima S
STOCK # 9C188438
$18,995.00*

2008 Kia Sedona LX
STOCK # 86261071
PRICE REDUCED
$16,995.00*

2009 Nissan Xterra S
STOCK # 9C509155
PRICE REDUCED
$18,995.00*

2009 Honda Civic SI
STOCK # 9H704539
$21,995.00*

2008 Nissan Quest S
STOCK # 8N111101
$18,995.00*

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Sales Consultant
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2011 Nissan Xterra S 4WD
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Yamaha FZ6
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Yamaha 40HP
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CNMI marks Safe Boating Week 2012

LT JOHN PETERSON/USCG

Department of Public Safety and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel inspect distress flares and lifejackets for a recreational boater at Sugar Dock on Monday, May 14.

Sunday, May 13, marked the beginning of the 2012 Safe Boating Week campaign for the CNMI, a week ahead of National Safe Boating Week, which runs from May 19 through 26, 2012.

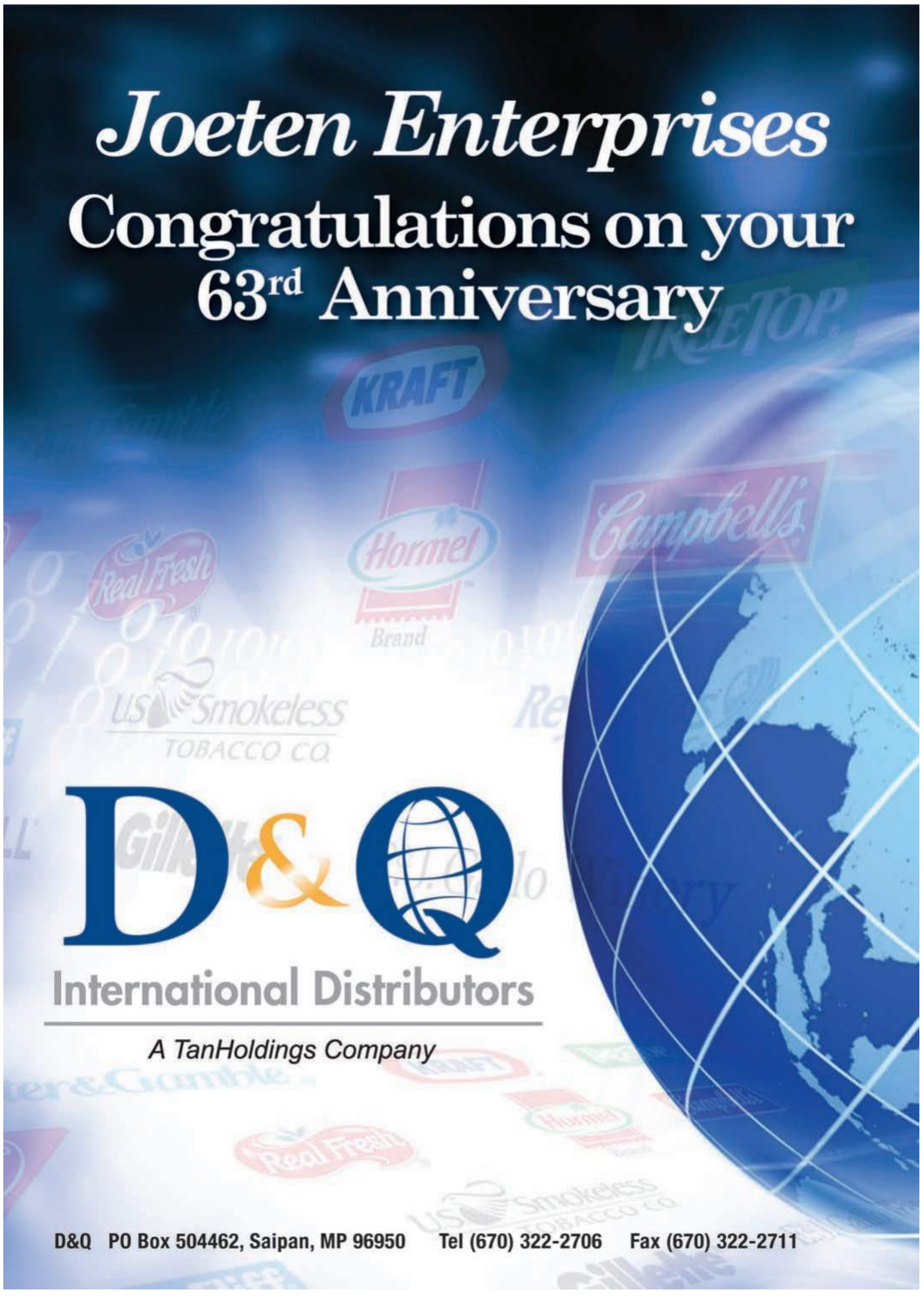
Saipan's Department of Public Safety Boating Safety Division and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary were on hand at Sugar Dock and the Garapan Fishing Base this past week to answer questions and conduct vessel safety checks of required safety equipment and functionality for recreational boaters.

General safety gear such as lifejackets, fire extinguishers, distress signals, and VHF radios are checked during these free examinations.

Safe Boating Week activities conclude this Saturday, May 19, at Smiling Cove Marina from 8am to 11am.

National Safe Boating Week is an annual initiative sponsored by the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary to raise awareness of safe boating practices. When mariners take to the water this week and throughout the year, Coast Guard Sector Guam urges mariners to wear a life jacket, purchase, maintain and register an EPIRB and carry appropriate communication equipment on board beyond a cell phone.

For more information on Safe Boating Week and general boating safety, contact Department of Public Safety Boating Safety Division at 670-664-9180, the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Saipan at 670-236-2969, or visit the Coast Guard's boating safety website at www.uscgboating.org. ***(USCG)***



NMI Judiciary, Bar ink MOU to create conflicts counsel for indigent defense

To create a mechanism for consistent representation of indigent individuals and effective payment procedures to counsel, a memorandum of understanding has been entered into between the CNMI Judiciary and the CNMI Bar Association. The MOU establishes an agreement for the creation of a privately retained conflicts counsel designee (conflicts counsel) to ensure that competent representation is provided to indigent persons with a constitutional or statutory right to appointed counsel through a cost-effective and efficient court appointment process. The MOU sets forth the steps necessary for the appointment and payment of a CNMI licensed attorney or law firm to act as conflicts counsel for indigent persons when the Public Defender's Office or Micronesian Legal Services Corp. are unable to provide representation due to a conflict of interest or other inability.

Among the provisions of the MOU, the Bar Association agrees to contract with and compensate the private conflicts council for one year of services with the potential for renewal. It will also designate a conflicts counsel based on the recommendation of a selection committee formed in consultation with the Judiciary. The Bar Association will furthermore ensure that conflicts counsel is appropriately licensed and competent, and will accept all cases requiring appointment of conflicts counsel, including criminal, juvenile, traffic and civil commitment cases. The Judiciary will appoint conflicts counsel when the Public Defender's Office or Micronesian Legal Services is conflicted. The Bar Association will ensure that the conflicts counsel provides representation in accordance with court rules and professional standards throughout court proceedings. Reporting and billing procedures between the conflicts counsel and the Bar Association are also defined in the MOU.

The Judiciary, for its part, agrees to issue court appointments to designated conflicts counsel in accordance with court rules and whenever possible to schedule appointed matters to maximize efficiently and minimize court time for appointments. Additionally, it agrees to provide limited space in the courthouse for the conflicts counsel's use when meeting with clients; to compensate the conflicts counsel in accordance with hourly rates established by the Judiciary for appointments requiring representation beyond the contract term, and to make monthly payments to the Bar Association in an aggregate amount equal to half of the total sum paid by the Bar Association to the conflicts counsel.

Acting chief justice Alexandro Castro said of the MOU: "This working agreement should result in a more efficient and cost effective means of providing quality and consistent defense to indigent individuals, and thus be a great benefit to all concerned." ***(NMI Judiciary)***

Managaha waters get green flag

The Division of Environmental Quality analyzed water samples collected from Managaha Island's recreational beaches and dock this week as part of the regularly scheduled sampling. None of the samples collected contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality standards. DEQ assigns all of the sampled beach sites a green flag. Enjoy the waters.

The division analyzed a total of 11 samples from the shores surrounding Managaha Island this week.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. ***(DEQ)***

2 warrants unserved on Sgt. Tagabuel

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman issued two bench warrants against police sergeant Vicente O. Tagabuel—one in 2003 for not appearing at a review hearing in a small claim matter and one in 2004 for not appearing at a status conference in a 2003 criminal case.

Wiseman only learned that the bench warrants were never served to Tagabuel after the sergeant was taken to court for a bail hearing in a domestic case on Tuesday afternoon.

It appears that the obvious reason why the warrants were not served was because Tagabuel was in charge of the Department of Public Safety's summons and warrant office.

On Wednesday, Wiseman learned from the prosecution that Tagabuel's 2003 criminal case is still pending, although Tagabuel believes it has already been dismissed.

Wiseman decided to hold another conference by next month to set a trial date for the 2003 criminal case.

In that case, the Office of the Attorney General charged Tagabuel with assault with a dangerous weapon, assault, three counts of disturbing the peace, and two counts of criminal mischief for allegedly threatening Andrew Rapoulug with a machete on Dec. 29, 2002.

The case file showed that Tagabuel entered a plea agreement with the government, but there was no indication that there was a change of plea hearing.

Tagabuel's two court-appointed lawyers withdrew from the case.

In his 2011 criminal case, the Office of the Attorney General charged Tagabuel with utility theft in the amount of $196.70. He pleaded guilty and was ordered to pay a $50 fine, $196.70 in restitution and a recommendation fee of $93.37 to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. He was also required to perform 25 hours of community service. There was no jail term.

Police arrested Tagabuel on Sunday afternoon after he allegedly threatened his son and daughter-in-law with a machete. The defendant allegedly told a detective that he only tried to scare his son for not returning his car and refusing to get out of the vehicle. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Power outage in Papago on Saturday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a power interruption this Saturday, May 19, 2012, from 5:30am to 8:30am.

The purpose of the interruption is to de-energize the primary lines so the CUC line crew may work safely as they replace a defective parallel switch in the Papago area near the Botanical Garden. This switch will provide the linemen the ability to isolate problematic areas on the Feeder 4 and Kiya 1 electrical circuits. It will also allow the CUC linemen to parallel the Feeder 4 and Kiya 1 circuits, minimizing the number of customers inconvenienced during future repairs or maintenance on the electrical grid.

In addition, other line crew will be clearing vegetations from the de-energized primary lines in Sosugi Dr. and Ahgaga Dr.

Areas affected by this power outage include Fresko Pl., Satchet Ln., Dagga Pl., Pengua Pl., Maipe Ln., Palm Tree Pl., Chetnot Pl., Ahgaga Dr., Amot Ln., and Pina Dr.

Because of the scale of the work that will be performed, travelers are asked to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through affected areas. CUC apologizes for any inconvenience this power interruption may have on the community and will continue to work diligently to minimize future interruptions. ***(CUC)***

COUNTRY HOUSE
Steak Restaurant Since 1992

In celebration of our 20th Year Anniversary

RESTAURANT Moby Dick
Fresh Sea Foods & Steak

we offer 30% discount on all food purchase on weekends.
May 19, 20, 25, 26, 2012 • Dinner only.

Available only to local residents and must present a valid ID.
Last order — 9:00 p.m.
For reservations Please call 233-1908 or 233-1910
Hours of operation: **Lunch 11:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. • Dinner 5:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.**
Located in Coconut Street, Garapan.

Apartment and Condominium for Rent

Promo Extended Until June 30, 2012

(monthly basis - renewable)

SEDA BLANCA APARTMENT

PASTEL INN APARTMENT

GILL BLAS CONDOMINIUM

One Year Contract: Regular Price from ~~$650.00~~ **NOW $500.00**
Monthly Basis: Price Ranges from **$550.00**
Power and Water EXCLUDED
LOCATION: Lower Miha, GARAPAN, where 747 Dining & Bar is situated
AMENITIES:
- 24-hr water supply
- Back-up generator
- Common waste container
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Free moving-service
- Laundry facility
- On-duty security guard at night
- On-site maintenance
- Parking space
- Swimming pool

SEDA BLANCA APARTMENT

Monthly Basis: Studio Type - **$350.00** • 1 Bedroom - **$450.00**
Power and Water EXCLUDED
LOCATION: Lower Miha, GARAPAN, nearby 747 Dining & Bar
AMENITIES:
- 24-hr water supply
- Back-up generator
- Common waste container
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Free moving-service
- Laundry facility
- On-site maintenance
- Parking space

PASTEL INN APARTMENT

One Year Contract: Studio – Regular Price ~~$350.00~~ **NOW $250.00**
2 Bedroom Regular Price ~~$550.00~~ **NOW $400.00**
Monthly Basis: Studio Type - **$270.00** • 2 Bedroom - **$420.00**
LOCATION: SAN JOSE, right next to Roshi's Store (along Beach Rd)
AMENITIES:
- 24-hr water supply
- Back-up generator
- Common waste container
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Free moving-service
- Laundry facility
- On-site maintenance
- Broad parking space (front area and backside)
- Spacious yard
- Swimming pool w/ BBQ area

UNITS FOR SALE

ANAKS RESORT
Available units: 2-BEDROOM—Size: 79 square meter
3-BEDROOM—Size: 123 square meter

GILL BLAS CONDOMINIUM
Available units: 1-BEDROOM—Size: 60 square meter
2-BEDROOM—Size: 75 square meter
3-BEDROOM—Size: 120 square meter

GILL BLAS CONDOMINIUM

ANAKS OCEAN VIEW HILL SAIPAN

ATOM'S MANAGEMENT & CONSULTING
233-8880

We also accommodate Daily, Weekly or Monthly basis.

For further details: You can visit ATOM's CO., LTD. office, located in Garapan, Saipan. Our office hour is 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on weekdays and 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm on weekends. You can also contact us thru phone at 233-8880 or send us an e-mail at atoms@pticom.com

Promo price in only offered for cash payments.
Payments made by credit card will be charged the regular price.

Business

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LOCAL EMPLOYER

The Division of Employment and Training Services at the Tinian Department of Labor, along with Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz, second from right, recognize Hellen Dona of Island Store for providing employment opportunities for the local workforce during the Tinian Chamber of Commerce meeting yesterday at the Fleming Restaurant. At left is Labor resident director Jasper M. Borja and at right standing by the podium is Commerce resident director Joe Kiyoshi.

US economy picking up after early spring slump

WASHINGTON (AP)—Maybe the U.S. economy's strength this winter wasn't just weather-related after all.

Home construction is near a three-year high. And factory output has risen in three of the year's first four months.

The data released Wednesday suggest growth in the April-June quarter is off to a good start, helped by falling gas prices and solid hiring gains. Fears of a spring slump are easing.

"It's all very encouraging," said Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics. "Things look good at the moment."

Builders broke ground in April at a seasonally adjusted annual pace of 717,000 homes, the Commerce Department said. That nearly matches January's pace, the best since October 2008.

Construction rose for both single-family homes and apartments.

Some economists have noted that a warm winter led companies to move up some hiring and accelerate other activity—including homebuilding—that normally wouldn't occur until spring. That gave the appearance that the economy had strengthened in January and February and weakened in March. But Ashworth noted that the overall trend in housing starts has been running at roughly the same annual pace—approximately 700,000—over the past six months. That's 100,000 more on average than the pace for the previous six months.

Ashworth said the higher level suggests demand is increasing and the mild winter had less effect than some economists had thought.

"We expect starts to strengthen further this year," Ashworth wrote in a note to clients.

Even with the gains, the rate of construction for all homes is only about half the 1.5 million annual pace that most economists consider healthy. But the increase, along with rising builder confidence and stronger job growth, is a sign that the home market may finally be starting to recover nearly five years after the housing bubble burst.

Single-family home construction is now 39 percent higher than its recession low. And developers are also anticipating more sales. Permits for single-family home construction rose 2 percent last month.

The growth in single-family home construction is important because those homes make up roughly 70 percent of the market. Since the recession, homeownership has declined while demand for apartments has surged.

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

WHERE FAMILY MATTERS

DYS-SYEC
SUMMER YOUTH EMPOWERMENT CAMP!

CHACHA JR. HIGH SCHOOL, KAGMAN
SPORTS CAMP : July 9-13, 2012
ARTS & CRAFTS CAMP
July 16 to July 18, 2012

OLEAI SPORTS COMPLEX
SPORTS CAMP: July 30 to August 3, 2012
ARTS & CRAFTS CAMP
August 6 to August 8, 2012

* Who's eligible : ages 6 to 13 years old
* Pick-up registration forms at the Division of Youth Services, Capitol Hill, Garapan Community Center and the Ada Gym.
* Deadline for Registration is on: May 30, 2012. For more information, please call Abner F. Venus, Charlene M. Lizama or Mercedes T. Usenuku at 664-2552/2555.

CONGRATULATIONS: T-shirt Contest Winners (Child Abuse Prevention Month)

1st place Oleai Elementary School

2nd place Koblerville Elementary School

3rd place Mount Carmel School

DYS Staff and Parent Trainer Ursula Lifoifoi-Aldan with Common Sense Parent Graduate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
664-2563/2565 ON SAIPAN
532-9393 ON ROTA
433-2950 ON TINIAN

Lower oil prices ease load on consumers and Obama

NEW YORK (AP)—A threat that's been hanging over the economy is starting to look a lot less menacing.

Oil and gasoline prices are sinking, giving relief to businesses and consumers who a few weeks ago seemed about to face the highest fuel prices ever.

President Barack Obama's re-election prospects could also benefit, especially if prices keep falling as some analysts expect. A majority of Americans disapproved of Obama's handling of gas prices in an AP-GfK poll early this month. But that was before the full effect of the recent drop had reached drivers.

The average U.S. retail gasoline price has dropped 21 cents a gallon to $3.73 since hitting a 2012 peak of $3.94 on April 6.

The economy could gain, too. Consumers who spend less on fuel have more to spend on other purchases, from autos and furniture to appliances and vacations, that could help drive economic output and job growth.

The price drop will likely boost consumer confidence. It also comes at a timely moment: Ahead of the Memorial Day weekend, a busy one for travel and entertainment spending.

"It's extra money in the wallets of most American consumers, and that's going to help," said James Hamilton, an economist at the University of California, San Diego who studies oil prices.

Lower oil prices also mean cheaper diesel and jet fuel for shippers and airlines.

Delta: Frequent fliers saw different fares

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Delta Air Lines may have charged some frequent fliers higher fares than other customers for almost three weeks because of a computer glitch.

Delta acknowledged on Wednesday that frequent fliers who logged into its website to search for fares saw different prices than people who searched anonymously. Delta spokesman Paul Skrbec said frequent fliers sometimes saw higher fares, sometimes lower. He said the problem has been fixed and apologized to travelers. He didn't know how many people had been affected.

The two business travelers who first noticed the problem said fares they saw were consistently higher when they logged in via their frequent flier accounts.

Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines Inc. has been upgrading elements of its website for more than a year. An upgrade less than three weeks ago to its flight search engine caused the fare discrepancies, Skrbec said. After discovering the problem, the airline reverted to its old search engine. Skrbec said the fix was made before the TV station contacted Delta.

Nation

Census: Minorities now surpass whites in US births

WASHINGTON (AP)—For the first time, racial and ethnic minorities make up more than half the children born in the U.S., capping decades of heady immigration growth that is now slowing.

New 2011 census estimates highlight sweeping changes in the nation's racial makeup and the prolonged impact of a weak economy, which is now resulting in fewer Hispanics entering the U.S.

"This is an important landmark," said Roderick Harrison, a former chief of racial statistics at the Census Bureau who is now a sociologist at Howard University. "This generation is growing up much more accustomed to diversity than its elders."

The report comes as the Supreme Court prepares to rule on the legality of Arizona's strict immigration law, with many states weighing similar get-tough measures.

"We remain in a dangerous period where those appealing to anti-immigration elements are fueling a divisiveness and hostility that might take decades to overcome," Harrison said.

As a whole, the nation's minority population continues to rise, following a higher-than-expected Hispanic count in the 2010 census. Minorities increased 1.9 percent to 114.1 million, or 36.6 percent of the total U.S. population, lifted by prior waves of immigration that brought in young families and boosted the number of Hispanic women in their prime childbearing years.

But a recent slowdown in the growth of the Hispanic and Asian populations is shifting notions on when the tipping point in U.S. diversity will come—the time when non-Hispanic whites become a minority. After 2010 census results suggested a crossover as early as 2040, demographers now believe the pivotal moment may be pushed back several years when new projections are released in December.

The annual growth rates for Hispanics and Asians fell sharply last year to just over 2 percent, roughly half the rates in 2000 and the lowest in more than a decade. The black growth rate stayed flat at 1 percent.

The immigrants staying put in the U.S. for now include Narcisa Marcelino, 34, a single mother who lives with her two daughters, ages 10 and 5, in Martinsburg, W.Va. After crossing into the U.S. from Mexico in 2000, she followed her brother to the eastern part of the state just outside the Baltimore-Washington region. The Martinsburg area is known for hiring hundreds of migrants annually to work in fruit orchards. Its Hispanic growth climbed from 14 percent to 18 percent between 2000 and 2005 before shrinking last year to 3.3 percent, still above the national average.

Marcelino says she sells food from her home to make ends meet for her family and continues to hope that one day she will get a hearing with immigration officials to stay legally in the U.S. She aspires to open a restaurant and is learning English at a community college so she can help other Spanish-language speakers.

If she is eventually deported, "it wouldn't be that tragic," Marcelino said. "But because the children have been born here, this is their country. And there are more opportunities for them here."

ACROSS THE NATION

Arkansas mom, premature son die after stabbing

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—A newlywed was being held on a murder charge Wednesday after his pregnant wife staggered into a western Arkansas police station, her blouse covered in blood from the stab wound in her chest, and collapsed. Emergency responders rushed Celestia Duffin, who was nearly seven months pregnant, to a local hospital where doctors delivered her baby, though both she and her son died, Fort Smith police spokesman Sgt. Daniel Grubbs said. Duffin ran to the police station from a nearby traffic accident Tuesday where officers found her husband, James Herring. The couple married a week ago Wednesday, according to court records, but Herring told investigators they were already talking about divorce, Grubbs said.

2 US Navy ships collide in Pacific; no injuries

SAN DIEGO (AP)—An 844-foot-long U.S. Navy vessel collided with a refueling tanker Wednesday in the Pacific Ocean, causing damage to both ships, but there were no injuries or fuel spills, military officials said. The midmorning accident between the amphibious assault ship USS Essex and the oiler USNS Yukon occurred about 120 miles off the coast of Southern California as the Essex was approaching the Yukon to get in position to be refueled, said Cmdr. Charlie Brown, a spokesman for the 3rd Fleet. Navy officials said there apparently was a steering malfunction on the Essex, which was carrying 982 crew members on its way to San Diego for scheduled maintenance.

RFK Jr.'s estranged wife, Mary, found dead in NY

BEDFORD, N.Y. (AP)—Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s family says his estranged wife inspired them with "her kindness, her love, her gentle soul and generous spirit." Mary Richardson Kennedy, who had fought drug and alcohol problems, was found dead in her home Wednesday. In a statement issued by Robert Kennedy Jr.'s chief of staff, the family described Mary Kennedy as "a genius at friendship." Westchester county executive's office spokesman Ned McCormack says the medical examiner has taken her body to an office in nearby Valhalla. He says he can't say anything about the cause of death until the autopsy.

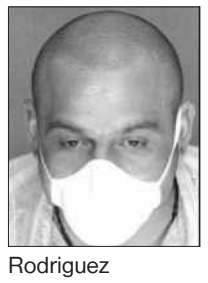
Army launches review of PTSD diagnoses

WASHINGTON (AP)—Army leaders said Wednesday they are launching a sweeping, independent review of how the service evaluates soldiers with possible post-traumatic stress disorder following recent complaints that some PTSD diagnoses were improperly overturned. The Army said it will review the diagnoses at all of its medical facilities going back to October 2001. And top Army leaders said they will develop a plan to correct any decisions or policies necessary to make sure that soldiers are receiving the care and treatment they deserve.

TB patient charged in Calif. for not taking meds

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Authorities in California took the unusual step of jailing and charging a tuberculosis patient who they say refused to take medication to keep his disease from becoming contagious.

Health officials said Armando Rodriguez, 34, of Stockton, has active pulmonary tuberculosis, which can include coughing up blood or phlegm and can spread through the air.


Rodriguez

Rodriguez has been noncompliant with his treatment and could become contagious as a result, Ginger Wick, nursing director for San Joaquin County, said in a letter requesting a warrant for Rodriguez's arrest.

After failing one time to give himself the drugs, Rodriguez told a nurse he had gone on an alcohol binge and taken methamphetamine and didn't want to hurt his liver, Wick said in her letter.

Rodriguez was arrested Tuesday and is expected to be arraigned Thursday on two misdemeanor counts of refusing to comply with a tuberculosis order to be at home at certain times and make appointments to take his medication.

He will likely be appointed a public defender.

Tuberculosis is a bacterial infection that usually attacks the lungs. Many people have a latent form, and the active form usually only affects adults whose immune systems are compromised, which can happen from drug use.

Public health experts are divided on the issue of mandatory treatment and criminal charges for patients who don't comply with treatment orders.

Many of those who do support criminal prosecution in the rarest of cases when public health is in jeopardy oppose the jailing of patients.

"I think it's an error to confine someone in the criminal justice system for a public health crime," said Lawrence Gostin, a Georgetown University public health law professor who drafted a model law adopted by several states struggling with the issue. "The whole intention is to protect the public's health. It's not to lay blame on someone."

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.o. Box 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
TEL. NOS.: (670) 664-3300 • 3302 FAX (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Parole Hearing

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and LT. Governor Eloy Inos, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Parole Hearing** is scheduled for **May 30, 2012, (Wednesday) beginning at 9:00 A.M., and if need be to continue on May 31, 2012, at 9:00 A.M. at the Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections, Briefing/Training Room**, Susupe, Saipan.

The following items are included in the agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Presence of Quorum

II. Consent Items
1. Adoption of Agenda

III. Parole Application

		BOP No.	Criminal Case No.
1.	Arnold K. Atalig	12-003	06-0083A
2.	Roland H. Muna	12-004	10-0184
3.	Jesse Q. Saralu	12-005	08-0053D / 02-0086
4.	Craig Borja	12-006	11-0153(T)
5.	Joshua Deleon Guerrero	12-007	11-0158E
6.	Kurt B. King	12-008	10-0111(T)

IV. Re-Application

		BOP No.	Criminal Case No.
1.	Mark Wayne Torres	12-RA-001	00-0012D
2.	Manuel K. Pangelinan	12-RA-002	04-0213 / 88-226

V. Miscellaneous
Other Matters

VI. Adjournment

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman

May 14, 2012
Date

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.o. Box 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
TEL. NOS.: (670) 664-3300 • 3302 FAX (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Executive Meeting

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy Inos, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a Executive Meeting is scheduled for **May 31, 2012, (Thursday) beginning at 1:30 P.M., at the Department of Corrections Briefing/Training Room, Susupe**, Saipan.

The following items are included in the agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Presence of Quorum

II. Consent Items
1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Adoption of Executive Meeting Minutes – February 08, 2012

III. New Business
A) Commonwealth Constitution: Article III
Re: Section 9: Executive Functions
(c) Reprieves, Commutations and Pardons

IV. Old Business
A) Board Policy on the Conduct of Executive Meeting and Parole Hearings

V. Miscellaneous
Other Matters

VI. Adjournment

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman

May 14, 2012
Date

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) , in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 35.912, are announcing that a public hearing will be held regarding the state priority lists for both drinking water and wastewater projects eligible for funding under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "State Revolving Fund" construction grant program. The proposed priority lists are available for public review any time during regular working hours at the CUC Engineering Office, located on the third floor of the Joeten Building in Dan Dan, Saipan. The lists were developed in accordance with the CNMI's priority ranking systems, on the basis of a number of factors including the affected population served by each project, the degree to which public health and the environment would be protected, and a number of other factors which may also be reviewed, upon request, at the CUC Engineering Office. Electronic copies of the lists and scoring criteria may also be obtained by sending an e-mail to brian.bearden@cucgov.org, or larry.manacop@cucgov.org.

The public hearing will be held at the DEQ Main Conference Room at the Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, at **noon (12:00 p.m.) on Monday, June 18, 2012**. For additional information, please contact the CUC Water and Wastewater Engineering staff at 235-7025 through -7030.

ALAN FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Asia

Progress for Chinese activist's bid to study in US

BEIJING (AP)—A blind Chinese activist who sparked a diplomatic crisis by fleeing into the U.S. Embassy last month filled out a Chinese passport application and posed for a photo Wednesday, moving forward in his bid to study in the United States.

Paperwork for Chen Guangcheng, his wife, and two children was completed in the hospital where the family of four has stayed since he left the embassy in Beijing two weeks ago.

Chen said the officials who handled the paperwork were sent by the central government.

"I am sure they were sent by the central government, which appears to be fulfilling its responsibility," he said.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has said Chen is free to study abroad like any other Chinese citizen, but security officials have kept him under virtual house arrest in his hospital room for two weeks. Until Wednesday, there was no clear sign that the government would let him apply for a passport.

Chen made a dramatic late night escape from abusive house arrest in Shandong province last month and after several days hiding from security officials in Beijing wound up in the protection of U.S. diplomats. He left the embassy after six days with assurances from China that he and his family would be relocated to a new city away from the abusive officials in their home village.

A few hours after leaving the embassy however, Chen changed his mind, insisting he wanted to leave China with his family as soon as possible to travel and study. He insists he does not want political asylum.

Chen said he plans to attend New York University, probably as a visiting scholar, and has been given relevant paperwork for the posting from a U.S. official.

The U.S. has said visas for Chen and his family have been prepared and can be issued as soon as they obtain Chinese passports.

A blind, self-taught legal activist, Chen gained recognition for crusading for the disabled and fighting against forced abortions in his rural community. But he angered local officials and was convicted in 2006 on what his supporters say were fabricated charges. After serving four years in prison, he then faced an abusive and illegal house arrest.

NEW HEADQUARTERS AP

A Chinese man bicycles in front of the headquarters of China Central Television in Beijing, Wednesday, May 16, 2012. China's largest state television broadcaster will be moving into its new headquarters, nearly eight years after the ground broke for the iconic CCTV building. The futuristic building—with two leaning towers linked with a 90-degree twist at the top—has attracted much controversy since the day its design debuted a decade ago. It is designed by Dutch architectural firm OMA.

In the United States District Court
For the Northern Mariana Islands
Bankruptcy Division

In re Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund

Bankr. Case No. 12-00003

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Motion to Dismiss filed by the CNMI Government in the above-entitled matter is set for hearing before Hon. Robert J. Faris on **June 1, 2012** at **9:30 a.m.** in the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, 2nd Floor, Horiguchi Building, Garapan, Saipan.

Dated: May 16, 2012

By: Office of the Attorney General

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff,	]	**Civil Action No. 11-0264**
vs.	]	**AMENDED SUMMONS**
CATHERINE B. PANGELINAN-SALAS and JOSEPH S. SALAS, Defendants.	]	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS CATHERINE B. PANGELINAN-SALAS and JOSEPH S. SALAS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT within twenty (20) days after service of this AMENDED SUMMONS upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this AMENDED SUMMONS, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint for Foreclosure.

SO ORDERED on this 27th day of April, 2012.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, INC., Plaintiff,	]	**Civil Action No. 99-0691**
vs.	]	**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**
JOSEPH M. MANGLONA and BLANCA P. MANGLONA Defendants.	]	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to an Order issued by this Court on January 23, 2012, in which the undersigned was Ordered to levy, execute and sell, in accordance with law, a parcel of real property, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, Defendants' interest in and to the following real property situated in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as described below.

Lot No. 008 T 25, containing an area of 900 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on drawing/cadastral plat no. 008 T 01, dated January 07, 1988 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale: The sale, open to the general public (including the Defendants), will be held on **Friday, May 25, 2012, at 11:00 a.m.,** at the Tinian Superior Court entrance, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 3rd day of May, 2012.

/s/ S. Joshua Berger, Auctioneer
Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger
Tel. No.: (670)235-8060
e-mail : joshuaberger711@hotmail.com

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CONRAD S. HOFSCHNEIDER, Plaintiff,		**Civil Action No. 08-0190**
vs.		**NOTICE OF SALE**
ANTHONY U. HOFSCHNEIDER, Defendant.		

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order Granting Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on March 16, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in the following property: Lot No. 057 T 05: located on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 057 T 01 dated May 4, 1990, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1770 dated May 7, 1990, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on **June 29, 2012**, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the **Tinian court house**, P.O. Box 80 Tinian, MP 96952 San Jose, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) Withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; E-mail: rttlaw@pticom.com.
3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and the loss of any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in the property.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Mr. Conrad S. Hofschneider reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of May, 2012.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Antonio C. Angui
Francisca T. Angui
P.O. Box 7976 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
670-288-1350

Petitioners Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE CUSTOMARY ADOPTION OF	:	FCD-AD #12-0230
MARGARET A. C. TEIGETA and HILARIO ANGUI adopted children	:	**NOTICE OF HEARING**

THE PETITION for confirmation of customary adoption for adopted children shall be heard on the 11th day of June, 2012 at 1:30pm in the Guma Hustisia Courtroom 217A.

Dated this May 15, 2012.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0037
-v-	:	
TANINA M. TAMMY, Defendant.	:	

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 14, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No 011 G 4564, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 805 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 11 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4179, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, June 8, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 8th day of May, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Saipan, Commonwealth of the)
Northern Mariana Islands)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to P.L. 15-117 a public auction will be conducted as follows:

1. General Description of Property:
   Various Electrical parts and supplies
2. Occupant of Storage Facility:
   Powersource Energy Services, Inc.
3. Name and Address of Storage Facility:
   Consolidated Transportation Services, Inc.
   REM Warehouse Building
   Lower Base, Saipan

Date, Time and Place of Sale: The sale, open to the general public, will be held on Friday, June 15, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. at the REM Warehouse Building located in Lower Base, Saipan. The property will be sold on an "as is" basis without any warranty, express or implied.

Dated this 15th day of May, 2012.

/s/ Steven P. Pixley
Attorney at Law
Third Floor, TSL Plaza
Beach Road, Garapan
Tel. No.: (670) 233-2898/5175

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thai police seize tiger parts said to be for China

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai police say they have seized the carcasses of tigers and other big cats believed to have been destined for consumption in China. Police Lt. Col. Theerapat Tharithai says a Thai man and a Vietnamese man were arrested Wednesday in a raid at a house in Bangkok's suburbs. He says police had trailed them from southern Thailand after receiving a tip-off. Theerapat says the carcasses of one complete Bengal tiger, two halves of another, one panther and a fishing cat were found in freezers. He says the suspects told police the carcasses were smuggled from Malaysia and were destined for China. Thailand is a major market and transit point for wildlife products, such as tiger parts and elephant ivory.

2nd Sumatran elephant found poisoned in Indonesia

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP)—An official says a second endangered Sumatran elephant has been poisoned in western Indonesia, apparently by villagers trying to protect their crops. Forestry Ministry official Harmidi says the carcass of the 20-year-old male elephant was discovered Wednesday near a plantation in Aceh province. Harmidi, who uses only one name, says a group of elephants had been wandering in the area in recent days, roaring and destroying crops. An 18-year-old female died in Aceh after being poisoned in late April. As forests disappear, elephants stray into inhabited areas in search of food. Fewer than 3,000 Sumatran elephants are left in the wild and environmentalists warn that they could be extinct within three decades unless steps are taken to protect them.

World

Syrian leader says terrorists are behind unrest

BEIRUT (AP)—In his first interview since December, Syrian President Bashar Assad insisted Tuesday his regime is fighting back against foreign mercenaries who want to overthrow him, not innocent Syrians aspiring for democracy in a yearlong uprising.

The interview with Russian TV showed Assad is still standing his ground, despite widespread international condemnation over his deadly crackdown on dissent.

"There are foreign mercenaries, some of them still alive," Assad said in an interview broadcast Wednesday on Russian state news channel Rossiya-24. "They are being detained and we are preparing to show them to the world."

Assad also cautioned against meddling in Syria, warning neighboring nations that have served as transit points for contraband weapons being smuggled into the country that "if you sow chaos in Syria you may be infected by it yourself."

Assad

He did not elaborate, but rebels and anti-regime activists say Syrian forces have mined many of the smuggling routes where weapons flow into Syria—mainly from neighboring Turkey and Lebanon.

Assad, who inherited power from his father in 2000, still has a firm grip on power in Syria some 14 months into a revolt that has torn at the country's fabric and threatened to undermine stability in the Middle East.

The U.N. estimated in March that the violence has killed more than 9,000 people, and hundreds more have been killed since then as a revolt that began with mostly peaceful calls for reform transforms into an armed insurgency.

A group known as the Free Syrian Army is determined to bring down the regime by force of arms, targeting military checkpoints and other government sites.

A U.N. observer team with more than 200 members has done little to quell the bloodshed, and some even have been caught up in the violence

Anger, drama at Ratko Mladic's genocide trial

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—He's no longer the swaggering general who held Sarajevo "in the palm of his hand" during Bosnia's 1992-95 war. Yet as his long-awaited genocide trial began Wednesday, Ratko Mladic still managed to reopen old wounds with the flick of his hand.

Hobbled by strokes and wearing a business suit instead of combat fatigues, the frail, 70-year-old defendant had an angry exchange of hand gestures with the families of massacre victims in the public gallery, separated by the bulletproof glass in the courtroom.

"Vulture!" said one woman in the gallery.

Watching the war crimes trial on television in Bosnia, Mevlija Malic added: "Not even an animal would behave like that."

Mladic is accused of commanding Bosnian Serb troops who waged a campaign of murder and persecution to drive Muslims and Croats out of territory they considered part of Serbia. His troops rained shells and snipers' bullets down on civilians in the 44-month-long siege of the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, and killed 8,000 Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica in July 1995, Europe's worst massacre since World War II.

"The world watched in disbelief that in neighborhoods and villages within Europe a genocide appeared to be in progress," prosecutor Dermot Groome said at the U.N. court in The Hague.

Twenty years after the war that left 100,000 dead, Bosnia remains divided into two mini-states—one for Serbs, the other shared by Bosnian Muslims and Croats—linked by a central government.

Mladic fled into hiding after the war and spent 15 years as a fugitive before international pressure on Serbia led to his arrest last year. Now he is held in a one-man cell in a special international wing of a Dutch jail and receives food and medical care that would likely be the envy of many in Bosnia.

But the fact that he is jailed and on trial is seen as another victory for international justice and hailed by observers as evidence that—more often than not—war crimes tribunals get their indicted suspects, even if years later. In another court Wednesday in The Hague, former Liberian President Charles Taylor faced a sentencing hearing after being convicted last month of aiding rebels in neighboring Sierra Leone's civil war.

That is heartening news for the International Criminal Court, which has indicted the likes of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir for genocide but appears nowhere close to having him arrested.

In a demonstration of Bosnia's continuing ethnic divide, Mladic's entrance in court was applauded by people who gathered in the Serb stronghold of Pale to watch the trial on TV.

AP

Former Bosnian Serb military commander Gen. Ratko Mladic is seen at the start of his trial at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, Wednesday May 16, 2012.

WORLD BRIEFS

Yemeni army kills 29 al-Qaida fighters

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Government troops and warplanes pounded al-Qaida positions in southern Yemen on Wednesday, killing at least 29 militants as part of a ramped up campaign against the group, military officials said. Al-Qaida-linked fighters have taken over a swath of territory and several towns in the south, including the Abyan provincial capital of Zinjibar, in the past year, pushing out government forces and setting up their own rule. In recent weeks, the army has launched a concerted effort to dislodge the militants from their strongholds—and is closely coordinating with U.S. troops who are helping guide the operations from inside Yemen.

Clashes in western Libyan town leave 6 dead

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—Clashes in a western Libyan city left six dead and at least 20 injured on Wednesday, a government spokesman said. Nasser al-Manei said unidentified assailants attacked an airport and a hospital in Ghadamis near the Algerian border, some 450 kilometers (280) southwest of the capital Tripoli. He says the attackers came from outside the city. Government forces were deployed to the city to stop the fighting, al-Manei said.

Charles Taylor: Sorry for those hurt by war crimes

LEIDSCHENDAM, Netherlands (AP)—Convicted war criminal and former Liberian President Charles Taylor said during his sentencing hearing Wednesday that he sympathizes with victims of the civil war in Sierra Leone he helped foment, and asked judges to render their sentence against him in a spirit of "reconciliation, not retribution." However, he stopped short of admitting any wrongdoing, apologizing for his actions, or expressing remorse. In a landmark ruling in April, judges at the Special Court for Sierra Leone found Taylor guilty of 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including murder, rape, and conscripting child soldiers.

FIFTH YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Vinae Teofilia Sablan Deleon Guerrero

Lovingly known as ***"Nena"***

We, the family humbly invite friends and family to join us in prayers as we commemorate the Fifth Death Anniversary of our Beloved daughter, sister, niece and grand-daughter.

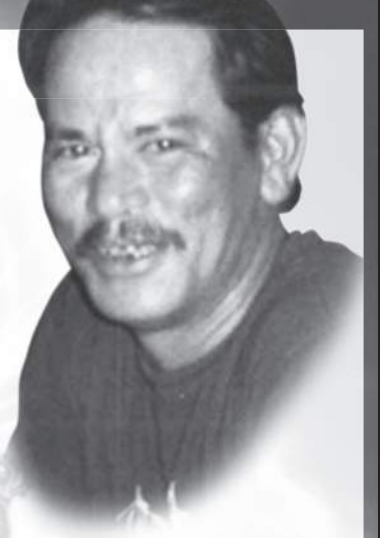
Daily masses of intentions are being offered at 6:00 p.m. starting on May 12th through the 19th at San Vicente church. And, on the final day, May 20th, mass will be at 6:00 a.m. and breakfast will be served at the San Vicente Social Hall.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank you.

Nadine, Jun-Ben, Chazrae and family.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT



Francisco Agulto Deleon Guerrero "Ozy"

Born on March 22, 1954 and was called to eternal rest on May 13, 2012.

In his new life, he now joins his:
Father: Jose Cabrera Deleon Guerrero
Brothers: Joaquin Agulto Deleon Guerrero, Vicente Agulto Deleon Guerrero
Sister: Rosario Deleon Guerrero Kumagai

His loving memory will forever live in the hearts of his:
Mother: Trinidad Agulto Deleon Guerrero
Daughter: Tisha Trinidad Dela Cruz Deleon Guerrero/Joaquin Jr. Sablan Dela Santos and children
Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws: †Joaquin A. DLG./Magdalena Iguel and children, †Vicente A. DLG. and children, Jesus A. DLG./Rosa Taimanao and children, Ana DLG./Wayne Gillespi and children, †Rosario DLG./Tadao Kumagai and children, Dolores DLG./Akiyoshi Yamagishi and children, Erica DLG./Augusto Evangelista and children, Jose A. DLG./Kumiko Takada and children, Theresita A. DLG and children, Pedro A. DLG./ Marites Arriola and children, Rita DLG./Ivan Tudela and children, Ramon A. DLG./Rhia Obaldo and children, Margarita A. DLG. and children

Mass and holy rosary are being offered at St. Jude Church at the following dates and times:

Friday, 05/18/2012 – 6:00pm MASS and Rosary to follow right after
Saturday, 05/19/2012 – 7:00am MASS and 6:00pm ROSARY
Sunday, 05/20/2012 – 8:00am MASS and 6:00pm ROSARY
Monday, 05/21/2012 – 6:00pm MASS and Rosary right after

On Tuesday, May 22, 2012, his remains will be escorted at 7:30am from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel, Cabrera Center to Mt. Carmel Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30am followed by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.
Thank You – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Calif. woman apparently burned by rocks in pocket

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. (AP)—Authorities in Southern California are investigating what appears to be the spontaneous combustion of rocks scooped from a San Clemente Beach that left a woman with third-degree burns. Orange County Fire Authority Capt. Marc Stone tells City News S ervice the woman's children collected the rocks Saturday and she tucked them into her pocket. Stone says at some point the rocks caught fire, burning the woman's right thigh and knee. Her husband also suffered second-degree burns to his hand trying to put out the flames. Authorities didn't provide any details about what would have caused the rocks to ignite. Stone says it should take health authorities a week to complete their investigation.

Ex-teacher charged with stealing Ohio prom money

HAMILTON, Ohio (AP)—A former high school teacher in southwest Ohio has been charged with stealing money meant for a school prom in a cash-strapped district. The district says a teacher on the Lakota East High School prom committee apparently urged students to pay her directly, instead of following the ticket sale process. The Butler County sheriff's office says the 45-year-old woman has been charged with misdemeanor theft. The office received a report that the woman sold tickets for the April prom but failed to turn in the money. Some students complained about having trouble getting admission to the April dance. The JournalNews in nearby Hamilton reports the woman quit her job as authorities investigated. The district says $800 was missing, and a relative has paid $160 of that.

Zimbabwe politician drives off in motor show car

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—State prosecutors in Zimbabwe say an opposition politician at a Ford Motor Company car show got into the latest model on display and drove it away. He faces car theft charges in court next month. Court papers made available Wednesday say police arrested 38-year-old Aaron Muzungu, an official of a small opposition splinter group, after he clocked up more than 800 miles (1,300 kilometers) in the new Ford Ranger. Prosecutors said the politician claimed he was interested in buying the pickup. When he sat in it, the keys were in the ignition. Police said security at the show was lax and Ford's local agents played live music and held a cocktail party.

Workers go trash-picking for Mass. woman's rings

ATTLEBORO, Mass. (AP)—An Attleboro, Mass., woman is praising the city's trash collection company after its workers helped her dig through mountains of stinking garbage to find five valuable rings she inadvertently threw away, including her engagement and wedding bands. Deb Kirby says she took the rings off one day last week to dry them after washing her hands. She tells The Sun Chronicle she wrapped them in a paper towel, got distracted and tossed them. Distraught, she called Waste Management. The company had the truck that picked up her garbage unload at a transfer station. She knew the rings were in a black bag with a blue drawstring. She and Waste Management workers found it in just 30 minutes.

Truck crashes on NY highway, spills tons of yogurt

CHENANGO, N.Y. (AP)—A tractor-trailer crash in upstate New York has sent 18 tons of Greek yogurt spilling alongside a highway. WBNG-TV reports that a truck hauling 36,000 pounds of Chobani yogurt was traveling west on Interstate 88 when it crashed on a curve and overturned late Monday night in the Broome County town of Chenango, just north of Binghamton. The station reports that the yogurt spilled on the highway's shoulder and down a hillside. The sheriff's office says crews are still cleaning up the crash scene Tuesday morning. The 24-year-old Nebraska man who was driving the truck wasn't seriously injured. He was ticketed for failure to reduce speed and improper lane use.

Authorities: Trooper gets text seeking illegal buy

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Two women face possible charges after authorities say a text message seeking the illegal purchase of alcohol was errantly sent to an Alaska State Trooper. Troopers spokeswoman Megan Peters tells KTUU-TV an off-duty trooper in the southwest Alaska town of Bethel began getting text messages from an unknown number just after midnight Wednesday. The trooper, Mike Ingram, responded to the texts and arranged a meeting. Authorities say the woman who sent the texts and another alleged buyer showed up to the meeting. So did Ingram, in uniform. Alcohol sales are barred in Bethel because no one has been cleared to sell it in the community 400 miles west of Anchorage.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-016

Opening Date: Friday, May 18, 2012
Closing Date: Friday, May 25, 2012

Meter Technician

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Power (Transmission and Distribution) Division Manager or his/her designee. Installs or assists install customer meters to ensure billing of services received. Performs or assists in meter testing; replaces damaged meters with new meters. Performs or assists in disconnections and reconnections of services; disconnects tampered accounts. Performs verifications to ensure meters are functioning properly. Delivers delinquency notices to customers with no addresses. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION: Power (T&D) Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $23,465.00 to $28,000.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

POSITIONS: Three (3).

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School Diploma (through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program). Four years of work experience; related work experience is preferred. Knowledge of: Meters; Customer service techniques; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Reading maps; Operating vehicles; Installing and replacing meters; Disconnecting and reconnecting meters; Identifying illegal connections; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must already have a CNMI or U.S. driver's license.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: Friday, May 18, 2012 Closing Date: Until Filled

JVA 12-011 Trades Technician (Mechanic, at least six (6) positions, depending on funding)

JVA 12-012 Trades Technician (Electrician, at least two (2) positions, depending on funding)

JVA 12-013 Trades Technician (Operator, at least four (4) positions, depending on funding)

JVA 12-014 Trades Technician (Machinist, at least one (1) positions, depending on funding)

JVA 12-015 Trades Technician (Welder, at least two (2) positions, depending on funding)

LOCATION: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $17,282 to $25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
CONTRACT: Not contracted.

For more detailed information, contact the CUC Human Resource Office.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: Friday, May 18, 2012 Closing Date: Friday, May 25, 2012

JVA No. 12-017 for Power (T&D) Division, Saipan; Position(s): One (1).
JVA No. 12-018 for Wastewater Division, Saipan; Position(s) : One (1).

Administrative Support Technician

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Power (Transmission and Distribution) Division Manager or his/her designee. Drafts a variety of documents such as memorandums, correspondence, reports, and schedules. Performs routine clerical support duties to include: preparing certifications; maintaining databases; performing data entry; filing; faxing; copying; routing documents and information; separating and sorting documents; uploading and downloading routes; restocking supplies; scheduling appointments; and, typing. Explains CUC and departmental policies and procedures. Coordinates supervisor's schedule and screens/responds to supervisor's routine messages. Collects, receives, processes, sorts, and distributes a variety of correspondence, documents, deliveries, and mail. Responds to requests for information and provides assistance with completing departmental paperwork; resolves customer complaints. Compiles, reviews and processes timecards. Attends and takes minutes at meetings; gathers and organizes information to be discussed on the agenda. Makes and coordinates travel arrangements. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION: See Above.
SALARY: $13,625.00 to $17,713.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School Diploma (through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program). Associates Degree in related field is preferred. Four years of related work experience and proven experience in Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel. Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Phone etiquette; Modern office procedures, methods, and equipment; Basic filing and record keeping principles. Skill in: Providing customer service; Preparing reports; Prioritizing work; Providing customer service; Alphabetizing and filing; Keyboarding; Using modern office equipment; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must already have a CNMI or U.S. driver's license.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 12-019

Opening Date: Friday, May 18, 2012
Closing Date: Friday, May 25, 2012

Warehouse Assistant

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Warehouse Manager or his/her designee. Prepares materials for issuing against a pick list; ensures correctness of materials. Prepares, packs and delivers requested materials to respective divisions. Verifies quantities and quality of materials received against shipping documents. Prepares receiving documents on returned, salvaged or scraped materials; stacks materials in designated areas. Maintains warehouse and surrounding areas ensuring orderliness of worksite. Conducts monthly inventory counts and spot checks. Conducts year-end physical inventory of all inventory stock materials. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

Location: Lower Base, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

Salary: $11,036.00 per annum.

Position: One.

Contract: Not contracted.

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or GED or ABE. Experience in a related field preferred. Knowledge of: Office machines; Basic mathematics; Safety procedures. Skills in: Operating office equipment; Operating warehouse equipment such as forklifts and pallet jacks; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. driver's license. Must be able to obtain: Forklift Certification.

Applications may be picked up and dropped off at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 12-021

Opening Date: Friday, May 18, 2012
Closing Date: Friday, June 1, 2012

Materials Management Manager

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or his/her designee. Incumbents are responsible for providing professional management support to a variety of programs. Oversees the Warehouse Section of CUC (including Rota) to store and track all of CUC's large equipment purchases. Oversees the Procurement Section of CUC to procure all materials and contracts for CUC (for all islands). Oversees the Power Plant Procurement Section of Power Generation to procure the fuel, lubrication parts and equipment needed for the power plants of CUC (for all islands). Reviews and prepares a wide variety of technical documents and reports such as construction schedules, impact statements, budgets, disputed accounts, project reports and monthly status reports for contracts. Performs research and conducts studies related to departmental operations to include collecting and gathering data, analyzing data and making recommendations. Collects and monitors a wide variety of data to be used in monitoring and reporting. Serves as a liaison between assigned department and other departments and organizations. Performs special projects related to departmental operations. Participates in developing and implementing policies and procedures related to departmental operations. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

Location: Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
Salary: $54,000.00 to $67,000.00 per annum.
Position: One (1).
Contract: Two-year.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, or a related field is preferred. Five to ten years of proven work experience in materials or logistics management; ten years of proven work experience if without a bachelor's degree. Knowledge of: Basic budgetary principles; Research methods; Principles and practices related to area of assignment; Applicable laws, rules and regulations. Skill in: Analyzing data; Conducting studies; Conducting research; Preparing technical reports; Preparing presentations; Drafting policies and procedures; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Applications may be picked up and dropped off at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Science & Technology

Paralyzed woman uses her mind to control robot arm

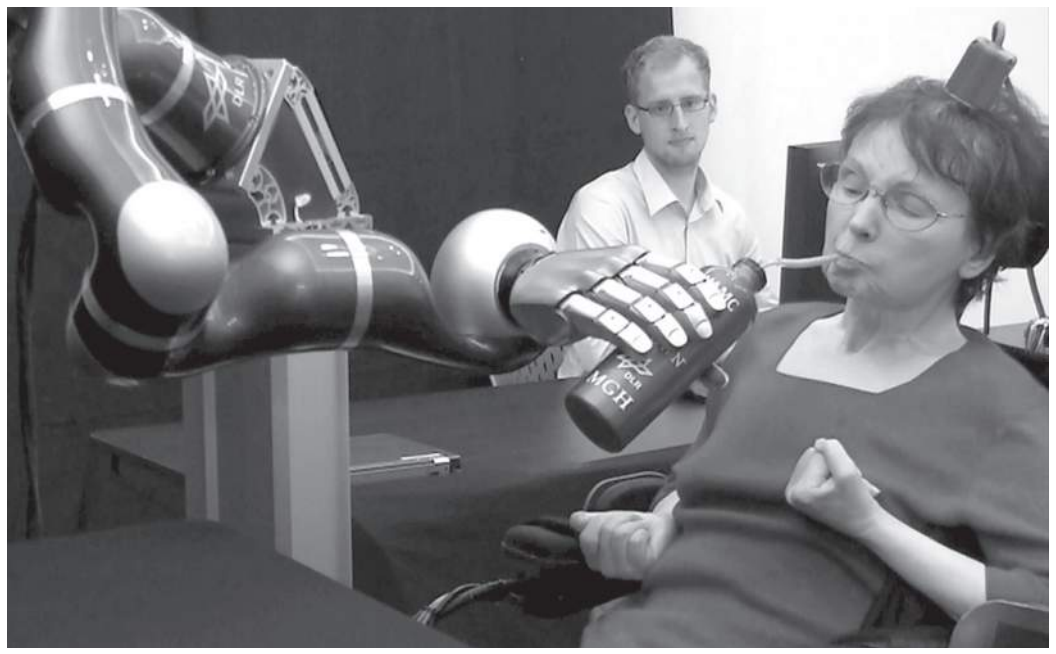
NEW YORK (AP)—Using only her thoughts, a Massachusetts woman paralyzed for 15 years directed a robotic arm to pick up a bottle of coffee and bring it to her lips, researchers report in the latest advance in harnessing brain waves to help disabled people.

In the past year, similar stories have included a quadriplegic man in Pennsylvania who made a robotic arm give a high-five and stroke his girlfriend's hand, and a partially paralyzed man who remotely controlled a small robot that scooted around in a Swiss lab.

It's startling stuff. But will the experimental brain-controlled technology ever help paralyzed people in everyday life?

Experts in the technology and in rehabilitation medicine say they are optimistic that it will, once technology improves and the cost comes down.

The latest report, which was published online Wednesday in the journal Nature, comes from scientists at Brown University, the Providence VA Medical Center in Rhode Island, Harvard Medical School and elsewhere.



AP

In this April 12, 2011 image from video provided by braingate2.org, Cathy Hutchinson of East Taunton, Mass. sips a drink held by a robotic arm during a test at a long-term care residence for adults with neurological disease in Dorchester, Mass.

It describes how two people who lost use of their arms and legs because of strokes years before were able to control free-standing robotic arms with the help of a tiny sensor implanted in their brains.

The sensor, about the size of a baby aspirin, eavesdropped on the electrical activity of a few dozen brain cells as the study participants imagined moving their arms. The chip then sent signals to a computer, which translated them into commands to the robotic arms.

The computer was taught how to interpret the brain patterns through practice as the paralyzed participants watched the robot arms move and then imagined that they were moving their own arms the same way.

In one task to test the system, the two participants tried to direct a robot arm to reach out and squeeze foam balls in front of them. The man succeeded in less than half his attempts, but the woman was able to do it about 60 percent of the time.

Google strives to enlighten with new search tool

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google is introducing a new tool, designed to make its search engine smarter.

The new feature debuting Wednesday draws from a Google-built database of more than 500 million people, places and commonly requested things to provide a summary of vital information alongside the main search results.

Google Inc. spent the past two years poring through online encyclopedia Wikipedia, the CIA Factbook and other sources to expand a database of 12 million items that it picked up as part of its 2010 acquisition of Metaweb.

The information warehouse, which Google calls a "Knowledge Graph," is an attempt by the Internet's dominant search engine to provide answers as quickly and concisely as possible so users don't have to sift through a hodgepodge of Web links displayed on the main results page.

The nuggets of information will appear in boxes to the right of the main search results. Google will gradually roll out the feature to its logged-in users in the U.S. during the next few days before extending it to a wider audience.

The changes come as one of Google's biggest rivals, Internet social networking leader Facebook Inc., prepares to complete an initial public offering of stock that is dominating the technology spotlight. The Knowledge Graph's unveiling comes a week after the second-largest search engine, Microsoft Corp.'s Bing, announced an overhaul that will highlight more information mined from Facebook—insights that typically don't show up in Google's results.

The Knowledge Graph will work in different ways.

If a person enters a search request, such as "kings," that can be interpreted in several ways, Google will now display a box on the right side of the page listing several other options, such as the Los Angeles Kings hockey team, the Sacramento Kings basketball team and the Kings TV show. Clicking on any of these choices will deliver results exclusively devoted to that topic.

Queries on specific people or places will generate thumbnails that list key statistics about the topic. Google bases its assumption on what people are most likely to want to know on an analysis of past search requests.

Worldwide video chats not always a reality

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Question: My son lives and works in Bangkok, Thailand, so a video connection between us is important. When we use Skype video, it disconnects after a few minutes and never resumes. Both of our Internet connections and speed are OK. What can I do?

Answer: It's a measure of how far we've come that people now expect worldwide video calls to work. And they usually do, although the video isn't always full-motion.

But your video call must make a long trek on the Internet—halfway around the world through a series of interconnected networks, some of them slowed by data congestion.

As I write this, Bangkok is among the top 10 cities for data congestion, as measured by Internet "latency," or delay. Check out today's worldwide Internet traffic delays at tinyurl.com/ytwysn (click "latency"; drag rectangular viewer around the world map).

Thailand is slow partly because some local Internet service providers have uneven quality (see tinyurl.com/7wrroxh.) Speeds sometimes drop below Skype's minimums for video: 256,000 bits per second (medium quality) or 512,000 (higher quality.) Many people there report Skype problems.

Ask your son try a different Thai Internet service, and try calling at different times of day to avoid Internet congestion.

■ ■ ■

Q: I recently took 200 old family photos to a company that digitized them and stored them on a CD disk as "jpeg" files (a widely used digital photo file format). But when I attempted to move the photos to my iMac, only the color photo images transferred. I can view the black-and-white photos on the CD, but I can't transfer them to my hard drive. Any ideas?

A: The company that scanned the original photos probably made a mistake in setting the "permission level" of the jpeg photo files.

My guess is that the color photo files were given "read and write" permission, meaning you can copy them from the disk to your hard drive. The black-and-white photos were given "read only" permission; they can be viewed but not copied.

Try changing the permission levels on the black-and-white photos by following Apple's instructions at tinyurl.com/68gxdk. After that, you should be able to copy the black-and-white photos from the CD to your hard drive.

If you can't change the permission levels, ask the company that scanned the original photos to replace the disk with one on which all files have their permission levels set to "read and write."

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

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Battleship

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Liam Neeson, Taylor Kitsch
Science fiction, War • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Milton Bradley's strategic board game gets a sci-fi facelift with this Universal Pictures production from director Peter Berg (Hancock). The action will pit a small fleet of naval ships against an alien force intent on enriching Earth's valuable assets to ensure their survival. Taylor Kitsch (Wolverine) and True Blood's Alexander Skarsgard star alongside Liam Neeson, Rihanna, and Brooklyn Decker.

Raven

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:45
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:45
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

John Cusack, Luke Evans, Brendan Gleeson
Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis
IIn this gritty thriller, Edgar Allan Poe (John Cusack, Being John Malkovich) joins forces with a young Baltimore detective (Luke Evans, Immortals) to hunt down a mad serial killer who's using Poe's own works as the basis in a string of brutal murders. Directed by James McTeigue (V for Vendetta, Ninja Assassin), the film also stars Alice Eve (Sex and the City 2), Brendan Gleeson (In Bruges) and Oliver Jackson-Cohen (Faster).

What To Expect When You're Expecting

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez
Comedy • Rated PG 13

★ ★ ★

The Dictator

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Sacha Baron Cohen, Ana Faris
Comedy • Rated R

Dark Shadows

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter
Horror • Rated PG 13

Marvel's The Avengers

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Robert Downey, Jr., Chris Evans, Samuel L. Jackson
Action • Rated PG 13

Safe

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:30
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Jason Statham, Catherine Chan
Crime • Rated R

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'American Idol' judges spread the love for final 3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The three "American Idol" finalists earned nearly uniform votes of confidence Wednesday from the show's judges. Now it's the audience tally that will determine which two compete for glory in next week's finale.

If the night had a teacher's pet, it was Joshua Ledet, 20, who delivered what Randy Jackson, Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler deemed flawless performances. Each contestant performed three songs: One picked by the judges, one by producer-mentor Jimmy Iovine, and one chosen by the singers themselves.

Ledet's gritty version of Etta James' "I'd Rather Be Blind" had the judges on their feet, a common reaction to the Louisiana gospel singer. He also impressed the panel with John Lennon's "Imagine" and Mary J. Blige's "No More Drama."

AP

In this May 10, 2012 photo released by Fox, the final three contestants from the singing competition series "American Idol," from left, Phillip Phillips, Jessica Sanchez and Josh Ledet pose in Los Angeles.

"This is another Joshua moment," Tyler said after the James cover, adding that Ledet sounded like an "American Idol" winner.

Jessica Sanchez, 16, of San Diego, didn't disappoint the judges on their pick for her, Mariah Carey's "My All." It drew what verged on another Tyler prediction.

"When you sing, you make people hang on your every note. ... You'll be the last one standing here, I believe," the rocker said.

There was praise as well for Sanchez's take on "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing," from Tyler's band Aerosmith, but Randy Jackson found her performance of the Jackson 5's "I'll Be There" just "OK," differing with his colleagues.

Bluesy, guitar-strumming Phillip Phillips, 21, of Leesburg, Ga., had the audience swooning over his version of "Beggin'" by Madcon.

"Can you believe this guy?" Tyler said, gesturing toward the cheering crowd and suggesting that Phillips could be the "next Springsteen" if he wrote his own songs.

Phillips faltered with Matchbox 20's "Disease," which the judges deemed subdued and unimpressive, but he rebounded with Bob Seger's "We've Got Tonight."

"The perfect song, at the perfect time, and your best performance on the show ever," gushed Jackson.

The audience vote will be announced on Thursday's show, which is to feature Lisa Marie Presley and former "American Idol" finalist Adam Lambert.

Hometown victory laps by the trio of finalists were chronicled Wednesday, starting with Ledet's trip to Westlake, La.

"They are really acting like I'm Barack Obama," a wide-eyed Ledet said of the police escort that shepherded him from the airport.

Will Smith meets UK Olympic hopefuls

LONDON (AP)—Hollywood star Will Smith took time out of his promotional schedule for "Men in Black III" to try his hand at Olympic sports in London.

Smith met Olympic hopefuls ahead of the U.K. premiere of the film later Wednesday, shooting hoops with team GB Basketball captain Drew Sullivan and taking pointers on the hurdle from Perry Shakes-Drayton, a hopeful for the 400m event.

Triple jumper Yamile Aldama tried to teach Smith, but found that the actor was more inclined to break into dance moves.

Smith praised the athleticism of those he met, confessing that he himself has "never been really athletic."

The athletes who showed their events to Smith will be joining him and his co-stars at the movie premier on London's Leicester Square.

Cannes opens with Anderson's 'Moonrise,' camel

CANNES, France (AP)—Wes Anderson opened the 65th Cannes Film Festival with his meticulously composed ode to young love, "Moonrise Kingdom," while less mannered theatrics surrounded the annual French Riviera extravaganza.

Anderson and his star-studded cast declared the festival officially begun at the opening ceremony Wednesday night shortly after striding down the absurdly glamorous Cannes red carpet, a seaside gauntlet of tuxedos and photographers. The premiere announced the start of 12 days of the most selective festival slate in cinema, with eagerly anticipated films to follow from many of the world's most esteemed directors.

That is, when a camel isn't running amok.

Sideshows are as much a part of Cannes as the main events, a tradition kicked off this year by Sacha Baron Cohen. The comedian again promoted his upcoming film, "The Dictator," with a stunt, this time taking a humped mammal on a stroll down the Croisette, Cannes' famous promenade.

The more dignified, black-tie-only opening ceremony was hosted by Berenice Bejo, who starred in one of the hits of last year's Cannes, "The Artist"—which went on to win the best picture Academy Award. In attendance, along with the cast of "Moonrise Kingdom," were Jane Fonda, Eva Longoria, Lana Del Rey and Alec Baldwin, who gallantly carried his fiance, Hilaria Thomas, up the many stairs of the Palais.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Mitch Albom's latest book set for release Aug. 28

DETROIT (AP)—Mitch Albom's publisher says the best-selling author's latest book will be released this summer. Hyperion announced Wednesday that "The Time Keeper" comes out Aug. 28. It marks Albom's return to fiction. His last book, 2009's "Have a Little Faith," was nonfiction. His most recent fiction book, "For One More Day," came out six years ago. "The Time Keeper" is about the legend of Father Time. In Albom's version, however, Father Time isn't an old man, but a young boy who becomes the inventor of the world's first clock. Albom, a Michigan resident, is also a playwright, screenwriter, radio host and prize-winning columnist for the Detroit Free Press. He's best known for "Tuesdays With Morrie," a memoir that sold millions.

'Death of a Salesman' recoups its investment

NEW YORK (AP)—The revival of "Death of a Salesman" might be terribly sad, but producers are very happy. The production revealed Wednesday that it will recoup its $3.1 million capitalization this week. The show, which has netted seven Tony Award nominations, stars Philip Seymour Hoffman, Linda Emond and Andrew Garfield. Aurthur Miller's play about Willy Loman, a man destroyed by his own stubborn belief in the glory of American capitalism and its spell of success, opened March 15 to positive reviews. Last week, the Mike Nichols-directed revival earned $929,340 at the Barrymore Theatre—all its gross potential—with sold-out houses over seven performances. Top premium tickets went for $425. Traditionally, only about 3 in 10 Broadway shows recoup.

The wild bus ride of Broadway's 'Priscilla' to end

NEW YORK (AP)—The wild—and exuberant—ride of "Priscilla Queen of the Desert" is coming to an end on Broadway. Producers said Wednesday that the musical, adapted from the 1994 film comedy, will close June 24 after 23 previews and 526 performances. The show is about three drag performers who set off through the harsh Australian desert in a beat-up bus and who on the way encounter the harsh reality of intolerance and do a lot of lip-syncing. It opened in March 2011 and won the Tony Award for costume design. One of the three leads, Tony Sheldon, also was nominated for leading actor in a musical. Ticket sales have been weak for many months, with a half-full house last week earning $535,357 from a potential of $1,458,535.

'Water by the Spoonful' to land in New York

NEW YORK (AP)—Quiara Alegria Hudes's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Water by the Spoonful," about an Iraq war veteran struggling to find his place in the world, will land in New York in December. Off-Broadway's Second Stage Theatre said Wednesday it will produce the work as part of its next season, which also includes the satire "Modern Terrorism, Or They Who Want to Kill Us and How We Learn to Love Them" by Jon Kern. After winning the Pulitzer, Hudes expressed hope that her play would make it to New York after its debut last fall at Hartford Stage Company in Connecticut. It's the second of a trilogy that began with "Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue" and ends with "The Happiest Song Plays Last," making its world premiere next year in Chicago.

Dad not eager to celebrate at rival graduation parties

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a divorced man with a live-in girlfriend I'll call Donna. Her two boys also live with us. Donna's older son will graduate from high school this year, and she has planned a party that her mother and other family members will attend from out of state.

My daughter, "Sara," is graduating from the same high school. Sara has shared her concerns with me that Donna's family won't care about celebrating her graduation. I tried to assure her that it's my day to celebrate her accomplishment with her.

I discussed this with Donna and asked if we could recognize Sara at her son's party. Donna refused because my ex is having a party for Sara, and her son would be an invited guest but not the celebrated graduate there.

I say it's a different scenario because I'm Sara's father and if I were remarried, we'd celebrate the step-sibling graduation together. Donna then told me she has some issues with the way Sara behaves at times. I feel this has given me an insight that I don't like. How should I handle this upcoming graduation and other important issues?

MIXED FEELINGS IN MISSOURI

DEAR MIXED FEELINGS: Handle the graduation and other important issues by keeping them SEPARATE. While it would be generous for Sara to be acknowledged at Donna's son's party, it isn't mandatory—and I'm sure the reverse isn't planned for the party your ex is hosting for Sara.

What the circumstances "would be" if you and Donna were married instead of living together is irrelevant because you are not married and the graduates are not step-siblings. However, this does point up that Donna has not warmed to Sara as much as she might have and you might wish she had. And, because it could be a deal-breaker, this is an issue that should be examined carefully in the very near future.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 16-year-old girl. I love my mother, but she puts very little effort into how she looks. She has been divorced since I was a baby and hasn't dated much. When it comes to how we dress, we are complete opposites. I like to put on real clothes, even if I'm accompanying my mom to the grocery store. She goes out wearing sweats and no bra.

Sometimes I try to help her by picking out her outfits for the week, but she gets mad when I say anything about her no-bra rule. She says I'm trying to pressure her to be someone she's not. Maybe I am, but I want her to meet people and go on dates. It feels like she has no pride in what she looks like. I care about her, but I can't help but see that she could improve.

DOTING DAUGHTER IN MARYLAND

DEAR DOTING DAUGHTER: We could all "improve," but if your mother is comfortable with herself as she is, you should try to accept her that way. Many women find bras uncomfortable, and if they don't have to wear them they don't—especially when wearing loose sweatshirts.

Your mother appears to be happy with her circumstances. When she's ready to try to attract male attention, she will. You are sweet to want to help her, but trying to manipulate her isn't working, so for both your sakes, cut it out.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

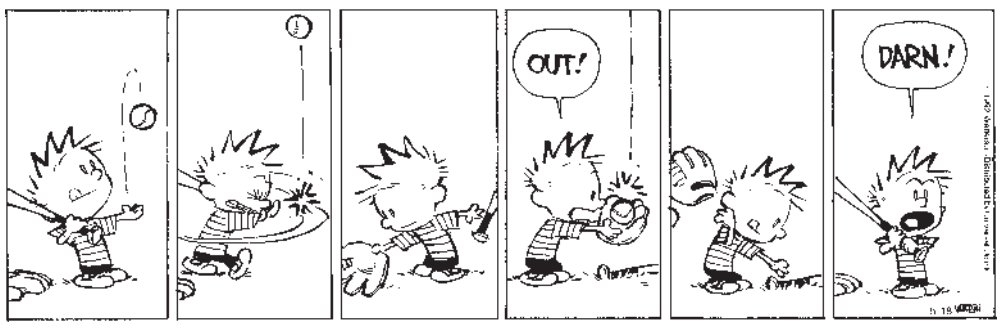
■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

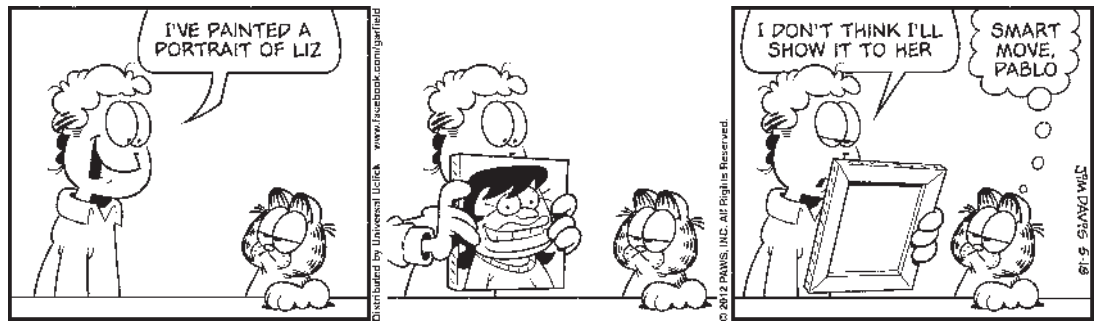
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I'VE PAINTED A PORTRAIT OF LIZ
I DON'T THINK I'LL SHOW IT TO HER
SMART MOVE, PABLO
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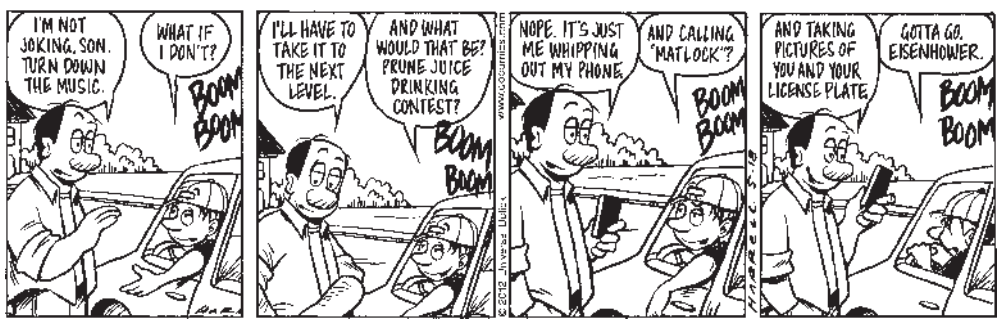
JIM DAVIS 5-18

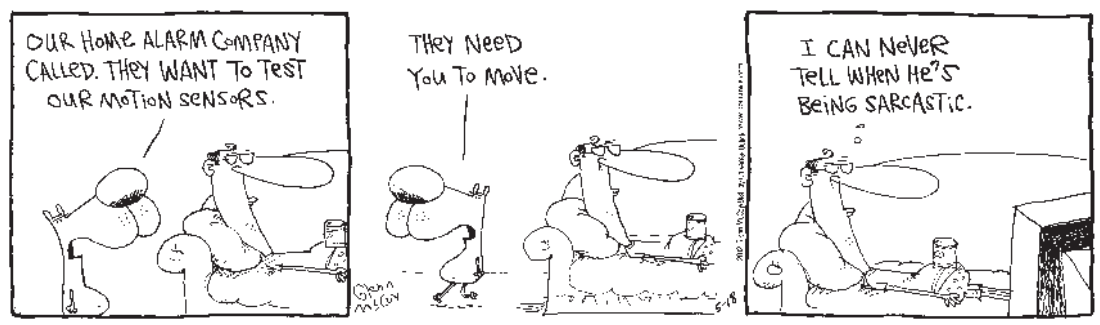
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I'M NOT JOKING, SON. TURN DOWN THE MUSIC.
WHAT IF I DON'T?
BOOM BOOM
I'LL HAVE TO TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL.
AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE? PRUNE JUICE DRINKING CONTEST?
NOPE. IT'S JUST ME WHIPPING OUT MY PHONE.
AND CALLING "MATLOCK"?
AND TAKING PICTURES OF YOU AND YOUR LICENSE PLATE.
GOTTA GO. EISENHOWER.
© 2012 Universal Uclick www.CQcomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


OUR HOME ALARM COMPANY CALLED. THEY WANT TO TEST OUR MOTION SENSORS.
THEY NEED YOU TO MOVE.
I CAN NEVER TELL WHEN HE'S BEING SARCASTIC.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Airport structure
6 Neely of hockey fame
9 Egos' counterparts
12 Sports venue
13 Diamond arbiter
14 Payable
15 Jazzy style
16 Fido's mark?
18 Throws
20 Boulder
21 Omega neighbor
23 Sandra or Ruby
24 Wearers of black, maybe
25 "Phooey!"
27 Memorable mission
29 Tawny wildcats
31 Talk incoherently
35 Needed a rubdown, maybe
37 Versatile bean
38 Burn with steam
41 Weep loudly
43 Gen- —
44 Therefore
45 Hit
47 Wood eater
49 Complaint
52 Shirt shape
53 Conk out
54 Troubadours' instruments
55 Praise in verse
56 Branch
57 Put forth, as energy

DOWN
1 Bill
2 Raw mineral
3 Surfer's destination?
4 Organic compound
5 Fast
6 Bat
7 Singer Tori
8 Fuel stat
9 Numskull
10 Netherlanders
11 Looks for
17 Witch craft?
19 Under, poetically
21 Expert
22 Pouch
24 "Today" rival, initially
26 Zigzag through snow
28 Fervor
30 Neatnik's diagnosis, at times
32 Flying toy
33 Caustic solution
34 Corn spike
36 Honor
38 Squabble
39 Words to live by
40 Match
42 Reveille need
45 Use a teaspoon
46 Essence
48 Greek mountain
50 Apiece
51 Superlative ending

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	P	A	S		S	U	M		A	R	A	B
L	I	V	E		U	S	E		V	E	G	A
O	T	I	C		G	A	R		A	Q	U	A
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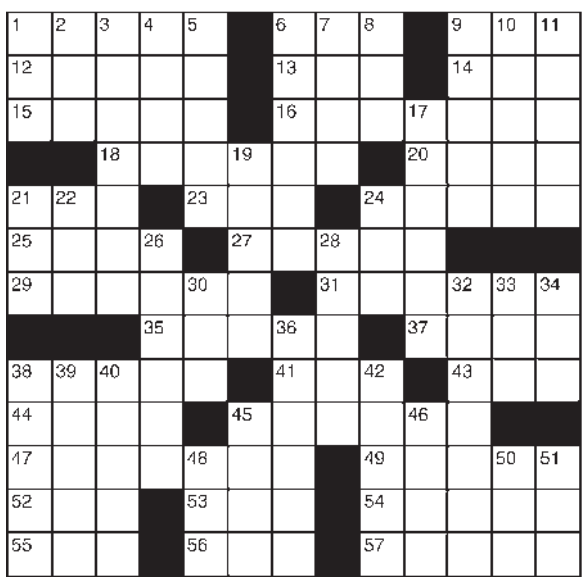
Yesterday's answer 5-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tina Fey, 42; George Strait, 60; Reggie Jackson, 66; Robert Morse, 81.

Happy Birthday: Your willful actions will pay off monetarily, but you may not please everyone. Don't worry too much about the fallout you have with someone heading in a different direction. It's important that you continue to move toward your own goals instead of accommodating others. It's your turn to be recognized for your talents. Your numbers are 4, 9, 17, 24, 27, 31, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't give in to someone trying to bully you into taking on the responsibilities of others. Romance will develop if you discuss your plans with someone with whom you want to share your future. A promise made will be honored. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Something you enjoy doing can bring in extra cash. Fine-tune what you have to offer, and approach someone who could contribute to your plan. Promptly tend to any matter that requires you to deal with an agency or institution. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Avoid a conflict of interest. Focus on friendship and nothing more for the time being. An innovative idea will turn into a prosperous venture. Strive to stabilize your life; don't disrupt it by making a poor personal choice. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Someone may try to coerce you into making a last-minute change that isn't in your best interest. Look into developing a skill in order to bring in extra money. Hands-on help will be more beneficial than a cash donation. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take a break from the stress you are facing. Spending time with family will help you put problems in perspective. A fresh start will help you pinpoint the best way to proceed. Romance will lead to a stronger relationship with someone special. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): The coast is clear for you to make a move. Share your ideas and make a point to connect with people who can open doors that will help you get ahead. Travel will have a great impact on the way you move forward. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let money matters confuse you or make you angry. Instead, reconfigure your budget to suit your needs. Avoid anyone prompting you to spend on something you don't need. A personal matter must be dealt with in order to ease your stress. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Ask questions and your concerns will be answered. A creative project will give you the push you need to develop one of your skills. Partnerships will play an important role in the choices you make regarding your professional future. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): An unanticipated change of plans will cause uncertainty if you haven't prepared well enough to move forward alone. Don't miss out on an opportunity. Spring into action, ask questions and make your move. Spontaneity is required. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Alterations at home will enable you to be more productive. Your ability to outmaneuver anyone you come up against will lead to a profit. There is money to be made if you do the legwork yourself. Romance will enhance your personal life. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Assess your skills and you will find a way to utilize your best attributes to bring in more cash. Love and romance are highlighted. Changing your current living situation will make life more interesting and financially sound. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't make decisions based on hearsay. You will disrupt your home life if you act distant or neglectful. Talk to someone you trust regarding your current personal situation and you will be able to decipher your next move. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are patient, practical and hardworking. You leave nothing to chance.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9	3		5	7		1	4
8			6			2		
	1	4		9	2		6	7
5			7			4		
	6	5		4	8		3	9
4			5			1		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	9	7	4	3	6	8	5	1
5	8	6	1	7	9	4	3	2
1	4	3	8	5	2	7	6	9
9	2	8	3	4	7	5	1	6
3	6	4	5	9	1	2	7	8
7	5	1	2	6	8	9	4	3
4	7	9	6	2	3	1	8	5
6	1	2	7	8	5	3	9	4
8	3	5	9	1	4	6	2	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/17

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SHOWING APPRECIATION **Solution: 7 letters**

A	E	L	E	B	A	C	H	I	E	V	E	G	S	S
N	C	T	A	C	R	S	S	D	I	N	N	E	R	P
S	O	K	A	O	A	E	C	U	S	H	I	E	T	E
N	E	I	N	C	G	R	T	O	C	V	W	A	U	C
O	S	O	T	O	I	L	B	N	O	O	L	S	E	I
I	H	S	P	I	W	F	U	M	(L)	K	F	I	N	A
T	O	G	D	O	N	L	I	F	E	(L)	I	G	E	L
C	W	E	R	R	S	G	E	T	E	S	(A)	N	R	E
A	A	D	O	A	A	I	O	D	R	T	H	(C)	G	M
S	S	V	C	S	T	W	T	C	G	E	A	O	Y	O
T	A	C	G	H	E	I	E	I	E	I	C	R	P	C
F	D	U	A	N	O	M	T	R	V	R	N	L	G	L
I	H	N	E	R	A	R	I	U	A	E	E	G	R	E
G	K	P	E	K	D	E	E	T	D	H	K	R	O	W
M	O	D	E	L	E	S	S	O	N	E	S	I	A	R

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Achieve, Acknowledging, Actions, Bake, Call, Cards, Cash, Certificate, Chore, Cooking, Dinner, Embrace, Energy, Favor, Flowers, Focus, Gifts, Goal, Grateful, Gratitude, Help, Honor, Hugs, Ideas, Lend, Lesson, Lunch, Make, Model, Movies, Open, Positive, Raise, Recognition, Rewards, Share, Shop, Show, Sign, Special, Talk, Thank, Time, Welcome, Words, Work

Yesterday's Answer: Compete

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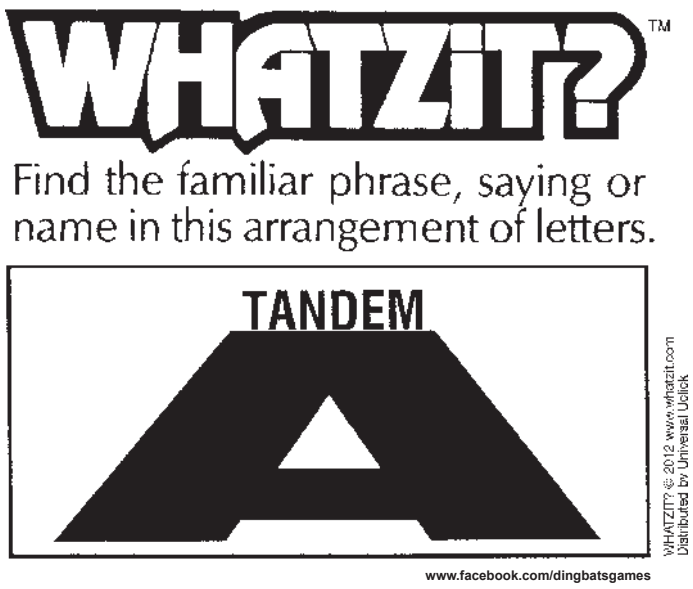

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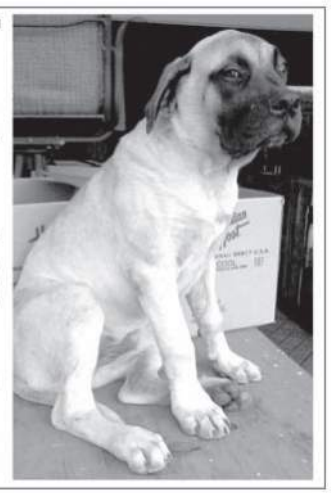

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 12-020

Opening Date: Friday, May 18, 2012
Closing Date: Friday, June 1, 2012

SENIOR ENGINEER

Duties: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power, water, and wastewater services in the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), a United States commonwealth adjacent Asia and about three hours south of Tokyo, Japan. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the Chief Engineer or his/her designee. Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staffs are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work; providing technical reviews; surveying for projects; developing procurement documents, evaluating proposals; monitoring project process; approving payment; and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications; collects data and performs research. Troubleshoots systems and equipment. Planning, design, construction management, and operations of water and wastewater systems in a marine environment. Research, write, and manage the conditions and requirements of federal grants for water and wastewater systems. Reviews work performed by engineering technicians. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

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CONTRACT: Two-year.

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Thunder rally to edge Lakers in Game 2

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Even down late, the Oklahoma City Thunder are showing that they are never out.

Kevin Durant scored 22 points and rattled in the go-ahead basket on a baseline runner with 18 seconds left, and the Thunder scored the final nine points to rally for a 77-75 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 2 of the Western Conference semifinals Wednesday night.

Oklahoma City trailed by seven with 2 minutes left before surging back with a series of defensive stops by its stars to claw back from that deficit in the closing stages of a game for the second time this postseason. The Thunder were also seven down with 2 1/2 minutes left in Game 1 against defending NBA champion Dallas in the first round.

"They won't quit. That's not in their DNA," coach Scott Brooks said. "They're not wired that way and if they were, they wouldn't be here. We're not going to win every game but we're going to fight to the last second of the game and we did that tonight.

"If we would have gotten down on ourselves with 2 minutes to go, we would have lost by 12 and we would go to L.A. 1-1."

Instead, Oklahoma City takes a 2-0 lead into Game 3 on Friday night at Staples Center.

Kobe Bryant and Andrew Bynum scored 20 points apiece for the Lakers, who came up empty on their last six possessions after Bynum's hook shot made it 75-68 with 2:09 remaining.

After struggling throughout the second half and missing 20 of their first 27 shots, the Thunder suddenly came alive after Brooks called timeout following Bynum's basket that gave Los Angeles its largest lead of the game.

James Harden drove for a layup before Durant used his height advantage to reach up and tip away a pass from Bryant, who he was guarding. Durant ran out for a right-handed dunk at the other end before Russell Westbrook forced another turnover by aggressively challenging an outlet pass to Bryant along the sideline.

Harden made the next stop, blocking Bryant's jumper on the next Lakers possession and getting a layup in transition off it to cut the deficit to one in the final minute.

Bryant couldn't connect again, this time on a 3-pointer, to give the Thunder the ball back with the chance to take the lead and Durant was able to make it happen.

"I wish it was my magical words. All I told the guys was, `We're down 7. You don't have to play perfect basketball but we better come pretty close,'" Brooks said.

Steve Blake missed an open 3-pointer from the right side with about 5 seconds left after Metta World Peace couldn't get the ball to Bryant on the inbounds play.

Brown said he thought Bryant was open on the back side of the play, but World Peace apparently didn't see him—agreeing that Bryant was supposed to be the first option.

"Blake was wide open. We didn't have any timeouts left and he got a clean look, a really good look," World Peace said. "He can knock that down."

Durant was then fouled with 0.3 seconds left and made his first try before missing the second on purpose—failing to hit the backboard or rim for a violation.

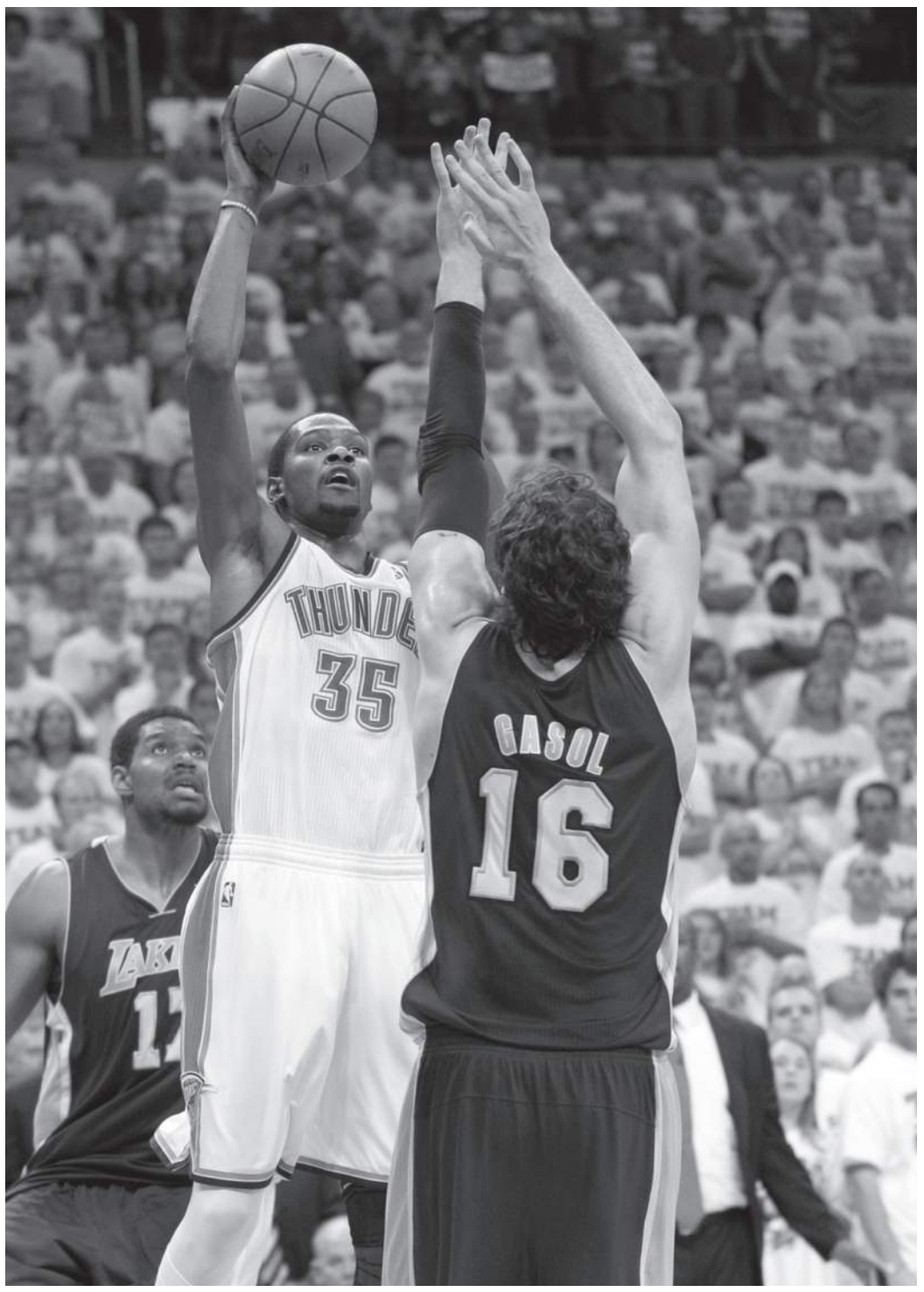
The Lakers got a desperation try but World Peace's long pass for Bynum was intercepted by Harden.

"What they did the last few minutes there, they just made gambles," Bryant said. "They just jumped in the passing lanes. It's something that we're not accustomed to seeing. It's just flat-out risks defensively."

Historically, the loss makes a huge difference. Los Angeles is 29-12 when splitting the first two games of a seven-game series and has lost 17 of 19 when falling into a 2-0 hole. The Lakers' last comeback was in the 2004 West semifinals against San Antonio.

The Thunder have won all nine of their series after leading 2-0, dating back to the franchise's days in Seattle.

"It's not good. I don't think anybody's happy in there (in the locker room)," coach Mike Brown said. "We felt like we let one slip away."



AP

Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots the game winning shot over Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol (16) in the fourth quarter in Game 2 of an NBA basketball playoffs Western Conference semifinal, in Oklahoma City on Wednesday, May 16, 2012.

Bryant was right at the heart of the meltdown, missing two shots and having a hand in two turnovers in the final 2 minutes. The first turnover came when Durant used his nearly 7-foot frame and impressive wingspan to come up with an energizing steal and fast-break chance.

"He used his length on Kobe. Coming up with that steal was huge," Brown said. "That's what great players are supposed to do. They're supposed to take on the challenge at the end of the game and he did.

"He won the game for them, basically."

Westbrook added 15 points for Oklahoma City, which matched its lowest scoring total of the season but still gutted out the win. The Thunder had ripped apart the Lakers' defense with their pick-and-roll attack in Game 1, scoring 119 points in a 29-point blowout.

"We dominated defensively," Bynum said. "We stopped them, made them play through their bigs and turn the ball over. In the last 2 minutes, we gave the game away."

In a game that was nip-and-tuck throughout, the Lakers started inching away early in the fourth quarter while Westbrook was on the bench.

Bryant drilled a jumper from the left wing and Blake followed with a 3-pointer before World Peace hit one of two free throws for a 69-63 advantage with 7:27 remaining - the Lakers' largest lead to that point.

Westbrook returned then but only provided the briefest of sparks for the struggling Oklahoma City offense, and Bynum's second straight basket—on a left-handed hook shot at the left block - made it 75-68 with 2:09 to play.

Until that point, Oklahoma City had more turnovers (eight) than made baskets (seven) in the second half after committing an uncharacteristically low four turnovers in Game 1.

Celtics 107, 76ers 91

In Philadelphia, Kevin Garnett yapped his way down the court after big baskets and clearly enjoyed taking it to the 76ers.

Rajon Rondo pushed the ball and relentlessly attacked the lane.

Paul Pierce gutted out a knee injury and grinded his way to the free throw line.

Boston hears the whispers that it's too weary and too old to win another championship. By the time they forced Sixers fans to flee their seats, the Celtics proved it's still too early to count them out.

Garnett scored 27 points, grabbed 13 rebounds, and used a dominant second quarter to help the Celtics beat the 76ers 107-91 on Wednesday night and take a 2-1 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Whistled for a costly illegal pick late in a Game 2 loss, Garnett crushed the Sixers early and never let them think about a fourth-quarter rally.

Garnett scored 13 of Boston's 32 points in the second quarter and the Celtics became the first team to win by double digits. Game 1 and Game 2 were each decided by one point.

Rondo had 23 points and 14 assists. Pierce, playing with a banged-up knee, had 24 points and 12 rebounds.

Game 4 is Friday in Philadelphia.

"We just wanted to come out and establish who we are as a team," Pierce said.

That started with making Garnett a focal point.

Garnett had somehow become forgotten in Boston's offense in Game 2 until the fourth quarter. Coach Doc Rivers said the Celtics simply weren't going to the 16-year veteran because they had established an offensive presence in the low post.

The Celtics wouldn't let that happen again.

They needed Garnett at his best in Philadelphia, where the Sixers had won their last four postseason games.

So much for that minor streak. Garnett made 12 of 17 shots and helped the Celtics outrebound the Sixers by 11 on the defensive boards. He buried those 10 to 16 footers with ease in the second quarter to turn a seven-point deficit into a 13-point lead.

"He got the ball in his spots," Rondo said. "He hit a couple of fadeaways. A lot of those guys are smaller than him, so he was just able to turn around and shoot over them."

Pierce had an MCL injury in his left knee rob him of his jumper and slow him down on both sides of the ball. He scored only 21 points combined in the first two games and failed to be the impact player the Celtics needed if they want to play deeper in the postseason.

All that changed in Game 3. He charged the lane in the first quarter for a couple of angry-looking dunks. He even pounded the backboard for emphasis after one as if to show the Sixers he still had some lift in those legs.

"That's who he is," Rivers said. "That's how he's been even when he's healthy. Paul's just a grinder."

He'll need to do it again to hold off the Sixers.

Thaddeus Young scored 22 points and Jrue Holiday had 15 for the Sixers. Lou Williams and Jodie Meeks each scored 13. Starters Elton Brand, Spencer Hawes and Evan Turner combined for only 11 points.

"Sometimes you've got to take it and go with it and come back the next game," Young said. "That's what we've got to do."

Wearing their matching red 76ers logo T-shirts, fans fled for the exits at the 6-minute mark and the Sixers down 101-76.

The Sixers hadn't hosted a second-round game since 2003, when coach Larry Brown and All-Star Allen Iverson ruled the town. Julius Erving walked out to a roaring ovation when he presented the game ball and Eagles quarterback Michael Vick watched from a suite.

The Sixers hoped all the stars and hoopla that helped them knock off top-seeded Chicago would work again.

Back to the drawing board. Young scored three baskets and the rest of the Sixers had only two in the decisive second quarter.

"We ran into a Celtics team that had a real sense of purpose about them," coach Doug Collins said. "You could see in moment one, they were looking to push that ball in every situation."

Garnett tortured them from long range, toyed with them from inside, and got some deserved rest on the bench in the final minutes wearing a long-sleeve shirt.

Garnett was whistled for a critical offensive foul late in Game 2 on a potential game-tying possession for the Celtics. All seemed forgiven by the time the Celtics raced to a 25-point lead.

"Our offense finally came alive," Pierce said. "We moved the ball. We knew that's what we were going to have to do to score 100 points."

Rivers kept Rondo, Pierce and Ray Allen in the game until the final minutes even though the game was well out of reach. The Bulls were burned by that in the opening round in Game 1 when they left Derrick Rose in with a 20-point lead. He tore his ACL and was lost for the season—and the Sixers rolled to a series win.

The Celtics intend to keep up the pressure in Game 4—and beyond.

"When you beat a team like this at home, you have to expect them coming out with a lot of energy," Garnett said. "But we'll be ready and we'll have a lot of energy ourselves."

Darvish steers Rangers past Athletics

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Texas' Yu Darvish pitched 7 2-3 strong innings to steer the Rangers to a 4-1 win over the Oakland Athletics on Wednesday.

Darvish (6-1) struck out seven. After giving up his only run in the first, Darvish settled down and retired 11 of the last 15 batters he faced. He lowered his ERA to 2.60.

Adrian Beltre hit a two-run homer for the Rangers.

Oakland rookie pitcher Tommy Milone (5-3) gave up four runs in seven innings.

Rays 2, Red Sox 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Jeremy Hellickson pitched six solid innings to guide Tampa Bay to victory and end Boston's five-game winning streak.

Hellickson (4-0) allowed one run and struck out six en route to winning a career-best sixth consecutive decision, dating to last season.

Fernando Rodney pitched the ninth for the save.

Luke Scott had a tiebreaking sacrifice fly for Tampa Bay.

Red Sox starter Clay Buchholz (4-2) gave up six hits over five-plus innings.

Blue Jays 8, Yankees 1

In Toronto, Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run homer and J.P. Arencibia added a two-run drive in Toronto's win over New York.

Jose Bautista and Kelly Johnson added solo home runs as the Blue Jays tagged Yankees starter Hiroki Kuroda (3-5) for seven runs, matching a career-worst.

Blue Jays starter Kyle Drabek (3-4) snapped a four-start losing streak, notching five strikeouts.

Orioles 4, Royals 3, 15 innings

In Kansas City, Adam Jones homered in the 15th inning, lifting Baltimore to a marathon victory over Kansas City.

Jones was hitless in six at-bats before connecting for his team-leading 12th home run of the season—nine of which have either tied a game or put the Orioles ahead. With one out, he sent a pitch from Nate Adcock (0-1), the fifth Kansas City pitcher, far over the left field wall.

The Orioles improved to 5-0 in extra-inning road games.

Baltimore's Kevin Gregg (1-1) pitched two hitless innings for the win. Jim Johnson earned the save.

Indians 9, Mariners 3

In Cleveland, Ubaldo Jimenez overcame a shaky start to guide Cleveland to victory over Seattle.

Jimenez (4-3) gave up three runs over six innings.

Travis Hafner hit his fifth homer and drove in three runs, while Shin-Soo Choo had three hits for the Indians, who hit a season-best five doubles.

Seattle starter Felix Hernandez (3-3) gave up six earned runs in only 3 2-3 innings. He and Jimenez combined for a 34-minute, 59-pitch first inning that ended with Cleveland ahead 4-1.

Angels 7, White Sox 2

In Anaheim, Albert Pujols welcomed his new hitting coach to town with a go-ahead three-run homer and Vernon Wells added a two-run shot to lead Los Angeles over Chicago.

Jim Eppard was with the Angels for the first time as hitting coach after replacing Mickey Hatcher, who was fired on Tuesday.

Los Angeles starter Jerome Williams (4-1) won his fourth straight decision, allowing two runs over eight innings with five strikeouts and no walks.

White Sox starter Gavin Floyd (3-4) surrendered seven runs in six innings, including both home runs.

Twins 11, Tigers 7

In Detroit, Jamey Carroll hit a two-run double in the sixth to give the lead to Minnesota, which outlasted a sloppy Detroit.

The Tigers made four errors in the first three innings yet still led 7-6 when Carroll came up with men on first and second in the sixth. His double off Duane Below (2-1) scored both runners.

Brian Dozier hit a three-run homer for the Twins in the second, and Trevor Plouffe's two-run shot in the ninth made it 11-7.

Minnesota's Alex Burnett (1-0) got the win in relief after starter Nick Blackburn lasted only two innings.

Marlins 8, Braves 4

In Atlanta, Miami's Giancarlo Stanton hit a two-run homer and possibly saved two runs with a diving catch as the Marlins beat the Atlanta Braves, adding another win to their impressive May record.

Miami is 12-3 this month after a slow start in April. The Marlins moved three games over .500 for the first time this season.

The Marlins led 6-1 off struggling Braves pitcher Mike Minor (2-3) before Atlanta scored three runs off Mark Buehrle (3-4) in the sixth.

Stanton's homer, which drove in Austin Kearns after his second double, pushed the lead to 8-4 in the seventh.

Kearns and Emilio Bonifacio each had two hits and drove in two runs. Omar Infante had two hits and scored two runs.

Minor (2-3) gave up six runs in 4 2-3 innings, the fourth straight start he has allowed six or more runs. His ERA is at 7.09 and his spot in the rotation looks shaky.

AP

People watch a live broadcast of Texas Rangers pitcher Yu Darvish of Japan pitching against the New York Yankees at Yamada Denki electronics discount store in Tokyo Wednesday, April 25, 2012.

Nationals 7, Pirates 4

In Washington, Adam LaRoche broke open a tight game with a homer and a three-run double to bring up his 1,000th career hit and power Washington past Pittsburgh.

LaRoche, with his 999th hit, and Xavier Nady hit consecutive homers off Erik Bedard (2-5) in the sixth.

Nationals starter Gio Gonzalez (5-1) struck out 10 batters in seven innings, taking over the National League's strikeout lead with 60, ahead of teammat Stephen Strasburg.

Cardinals 4, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Jaime Garcia matched his career high with nine strikeouts, directing St. Louis over San Francisco.

Garcia (3-2) gave up one run in 7 1-3 innings.

David Freese hit a go-ahead solo home run in the seventh inning, while Skip Schumaker added a two-run double in the eighth for the Cardinals.

In a matchup of the past two World Series champions, the Giants didn't do enough to back Madison Bumgarner (5-3). He gave up four runs in 7 1-3 innings.

Reds 6, Mets 3

In New York, Todd Frazier homered twice in Cincinnati's win over New York.

The Reds put together three straight hits off Jon Rauch (3-2) in the eighth, ending in Brandon Phillips' game-tying single. Rauch was replaced by Tim Byrdak, who gave up the go-ahead run; Jay Bruce's sacrifice fly. After another change on the mound, Frazier homered off D.J. Carrasco's second pitch.

Jose Arredondo (3-1) pitched a perfect inning of relief for the Reds to take the win.

Padres 4, Dodgers 2

In San Diego, Chase Headley homered, doubled and drove in three runs, proving to be the difference for San Diego against Los Angeles.

Headley's efforts helped Padres starter Clayton Richard (2-5) snap a personal five-game losing skid, giving up two runs in seven innings.

Dodgers starter Chris Capuano (5-1) took a 2-1 lead into the sixth. Cameron Maybin and Chris Denorfia opened the inning with singles before Headley doubled to bring them both in.

Phillies 9, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Carlos Ruiz hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the eighth inning as Philadelphia overran Chicago.

Ruiz's homer off Shawn Camp (2-2) was followed by a six-run ninth inning, highlighted by Hector Luna's first career grand slam in his first at-bat with the Phillies.

Jose Contreras (1-0) pitched a perfect seventh to earn the win.

Astros 8, Brewers 3

In Houston, Carlos Lee had three hits, including his first homer in more than three weeks, and three RBIs in Houston's win over Milwaukee.

Lee's home run was a solo shot in the seventh inning that put Houston up 8-1. Lee also singled and scored in the second then drove in two runs with a single in Houston's three-run third.

Astros starter Bud Norris (4-1) yielded just one run in seven innings while notching a season-high nine strikeouts. He improved to 3-0 in his past four starts and helped Houston end a four-game skid.

Brewers starter Randy Wolf (2-4) allowed seven runs in four innings.

Rockies 6, Diamondbacks 1

In Denver, veteran Jamie Moyer pitched neatly into the seventh inning and even drove in two runs with the bat as Colorado defeated Arizona.

The 49-year-old Moyer legged out a base hit in the fourth when he dribbled a two-run single between the pitcher and the first baseman who made a futile lunge in an attempt to tag.

Moyer (2-3) allowed one earned run in 6 1-3 innings, striking out five.

He outpitched Patrick Corbin (2-2), who gave up six runs in six innings.

Clemens accuser McNamee: 'I didn't make it up'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Roger Clemens' lawyer toyed with Brian McNamee's memory and attacked him from several directions at once. The attorney even put an easel next to the witness with the words: "MISTAKE. BAD MEMORY. LIE." Eventually, there came the inevitable question: "Do you sometimes just make stuff up?"

McNamee has frequently taken long pauses before answering questions in three days on the witness stand, but he didn't hesitate this time. He leaned into the microphone and said softly but assuredly: "I didn't make it up."

Clemens' chief accuser was on the stand for two hours of aggressive cross-examination Wednesday on one of the most important days—perhaps the most important—in the perjury trial of the seven-time Cy Young Award winning pitcher. Clemens is charged with lying when he told Congress in 2008 that he never used steroids or human growth hormone.

McNamee has testified he injected Clemens with both, and the credibility of Clemens' former friend and longtime strength coach will no doubt be the No. 1 topic when the jury starts deliberating the case.

Going for style over substance, Clemens lawyer Rusty Hardin was as colorful as his outfit—bright orange tie, cream-colored suit—and continued his practice of mispronouncing the witness' name as mac-nah-MAY instead of MAC-nah-mee. He skipped from topic to topic without warning, often confusing McNamee while trying to sow seeds of doubt in the jurors' minds.

McNamee, who has now spent 12 hours on the stand with more to come on Thursday, alternated between fidgety and focused. At various times he looked curiously at the courtroom ceiling, draped his arm around his chair, or leaned forward to scratch an itchy foot while Hardin was asking questions. McNamee sometimes seemed perplexed by simple yes-or-no questions and stumbled through an answer about his birthday.

Other times, he was more firm and direct. He complained when Hardin asked him a convoluted, multipart question: "Which one do you want me to answer?" "Pick one," Hardin replied.

Hardin was perhaps most effective when he got McNamee to agree that his memory about events connected to Clemens had improved once McNamee began cooperating with federal investigators looking into steroids and baseball.

"Is it true that ever since you began making these accusations about Mr. Clemens, your memory and versions of what happened and details have sort of evolved?" Hardin asked.

"Yes sir," McNamee answered.

Hardin asked if McNamee had "intentionally lied" to investigators.

"Yes sir," McNamee replied. McNamee testified earlier in the week that he originally minimized Clemens' involvement with performance-enhancing drugs in what he said was an effort to protect the pitcher.

Hardin worked the same angle when McNamee had trouble remembering what was written on the cover of a book McNamee started writing but never published.

"You remember little details all the way back to 1998 ... but you have to have me show you the cover of your book before you know what's on it," Hardin said.

Referencing the easel, Hardin would cite various statements and ask McNamee to put them in the category of "mistake," "bad memory" or "lie." McNamee conceded to one case of a "bad memory" before court adjourned for the day at noon because of a juror's schedule conflict. McNamee returns to the stand Thursday.

Brees critical of Saints in radio interview

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Drew Brees said in a radio interview Wednesday night that he is frustrated by what he views as a lack of communication with the New Orleans Saints in his ongoing contract negotiations, adding the club should have shown more urgency to get a long-term deal done.

"It's been extremely frustrating for me. I don't think the negotiations should have been this difficult," Brees said on WWL radio in New Orleans. "What's been a little frustrating on my end, or disappointing, is the lack of communication. We've reached out on quite a few occasions and at times I know I've been frustrated with the lack of response."

While Brees said he wants to return to the team as soon as possible, he raised the possibility of missing minicamp and even training camp if he does not reach a long-term extension that he believes is appropriate. Brees has missed several weeks of voluntary offseason training with the club, and New Orleans holds its first offseason practices, called organized team activities, next week.

Brees said the Saints cannot pretend that the NFL's bounty investigation and resulting punishment—including the suspension of head coach Sean Payton for the whole 2012 season—has not been a huge distraction that makes the remainder of the Saints' offseason work "very important."

"This is a big time for our team, especially when you look at what has happened this offseason," he said.

Given his leadership role and his performance during his past six seasons, Brees said he would hope the Saints would make his next contract a top priority.

"There should be a sense of urgency and it just seems like there's not," Brees said.

The Saints did not immediately respond to Brees' comments. However, general manager Mickey Loomis said last month he understands that he has never worked on a more important deal than Brees' extension, and he wants to come up with a deal that makes his star quarterback happy.

The Saints this season will attempt to make the playoffs for a fourth straight time. If they do so, they'll be in the running to become the first team to play the Super Bowl on its home field next February in the Superdome.

New Orleans has most of the top players back from an offense that set numerous NFL records last season, when Brees passed for an NFL single-season record 5,474 yards, smashing Dan Marino's mark of 5,084, which had stood since 1984. The Saints have placed the exclusive franchise tag on Brees, meaning he won't be playing anywhere else next season. However, Brees does not have to report and has said he has no intention of playing under a one-year franchise tag that does not give him any long-term security.

"I feel like our position is very reasonable and certainly appropriate for the situation that I'm in, which is having played the full extent of my (previous) six-year contract," Brees said. "I knew exactly what I was signing up for and over the last few years I have not said a peep about wanting a new contract or not being happy with my current contract. ... Certainly, I took on a lot of risk last year by playing the last year of my contract without anything guaranteed for the future."

Brees said he still wants to finish his career in New Orleans and has a plan to be as prepared as possible when he does eventually report.

"If that means missing OTAs, minicamp, training camp, I will be as ready as can possibly be," Brees said. "There's no way you can simulate those things anywhere else other than being on the field with your team, but I have a plan, so I'll execute that plan as I need to."

Ex-Syracuse hoops coach's wife: Life is ruined

GENEVA, N.Y. (AP)—The wife of fired Syracuse University assistant basketball coach Bernie Fine claimed Wednesday that ESPN maliciously trampled her reputation by broadcasting salacious stories about her and about claims that her husband molested ball boys.

Laurie Fine held a news conference Wednesday and threatened to file a libel lawsuit in federal court against the cable network and two employees. ESPN in November broke the story of two former Syracuse ball boys, Robert Davis and Michael Lang, who claimed they were molested by Bernie Fine decades ago.

"I'm here today as a wife and a mother who has had to endure the trauma of being smeared in the public as a monster," she said, reading quickly from a statement. "My life has been destroyed."

Laurie Fine's lawyer, Lawrence Fisher of Pittsburgh, repeatedly declined to answer specific questions and said he was discussing the complaint with Bristol, Conn.-based ESPN. He has not yet filed a lawsuit.

ESPN spokesman Josh Krulewitz said the complaint is without merit and the network stands by its reporting.

Bernie Fine has denied wrongdoing and hasn't been charged. Federal investigators opened an investigation into him following the allegations of a third man, 23-year-old Zach Tomaselli of Lewiston, Maine, who has since said he lied. The local prosecutor has called Davis and Lang credible but said the alleged crimes occurred too long ago to pursue.

Laurie Fine, with her two daughters at her side, said her husband called to wish her luck Wednesday. She would not address whether they are still together.

"Bernie does support this lawsuit, and he's behind me 100 percent," Laurie Fine said.

Laurie Fine said she was the victim of "treacherous lies" and said the attention has forced her to live in seclusion for the past six months and give up charity work she enjoyed.

"They should apologize and retract these horrible lies reported about me," she said.

Fine said the network was motivated by the unfolding child sex-abuse scandal at Penn State University.

"Although these defendants have known me to be a decent and honorable woman, they have maliciously attacked me in order to attack my husband and to boost television ratings in the wake of the Penn State scandal," she said.

The accusations from Davis and Lang, quickly picked up by other national media, roiled the Syracuse team's then-perfect season and brought criticism to Hall of Fame head coach Jim Boeheim. Boeheim initially called Davis a liar out to capitalize on the Penn State scandal, but soon softened his stance.

Davis initially approached ESPN in 2003, but the network did not report the story then.

Fisher called the district attorney's comments on Davis' and Lang's credibility "irrelevant, immaterial, unsubstantiated and foolish."

Davis' lawyer, Gloria Allred, said if Laurie Fine does sue ESPN, she anticipates Davis will be called to testify. Last week, a Syracuse-area judge dismissed defamation suit by Davis and Lang against Boeheim and the university. Allred said she will appeal.

"It would be ironic if Ms. Fine is allowed to pursue her lawsuit claiming she was defamed when Bobby Davis was not permitted to pursue his defamation case," she said in an email statement.

Fisher said the media coverage has made it "impossible" for Laurie Fine to go out in public in her hometown, so they held the news conference in Geneva, a Finger Lakes resort town 45 miles west of Syracuse. The family has also put their suburban Syracuse home on the market.

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DEDEDO Calvo's Center 637-RENT Behind Johndel's Supermarket
SAIPAN Middle Road 234-RENT Next to Subway

Garcia finishes second in Tinian bike race

Ariel Garcia finished second place to Nep Dizon in the open division of the 2012 Tinian Fiesta Bike Race held last May 5.

Lewie Tenorio was earlier credited for the runner-up finish but the many time CNMI national triathlon team member was disqualified for taking a wrong turn on the course.

"Early in the race I dropped from first to 10th position after I flatted out not even 10 kilometers from the start, but after a quick tube change I was able to work my way to fourth position somewhere near the 32-kilometer marker. It was after this, at one of the intersections out in the boonies where I took a wrong turn that unfairly put me at the lead," he said in a recent email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Tenorio elaborated, "Organizers caught up to me almost two miles from the wrong turn where, by that time, any attempt to make up for the misdirection would be a hindrance to the other riders. So since I couldn't make up for the lost section the organizers and myself agreed to my disqualification."

Garcia eventually received runner-up honors in the open field with a of 2:52:3. He finished fifth overall out of 43 participants. Dizon led all cyclists with a time of 2:38:33, while Joann Salazar won the women's division after crossing the finish line in 4:09:52.

The 2012 Tinian Fiesta Bike Race consisted of a 65-kilometer course around Tinian that started and ended at Suicide Cliff. The Tinian Mayor's Office, Don Farrell, and the Tinian Department of Land and Natural Resources organized the competition. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

MANCAO

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phins' sweep of the age group by clocking in at 2.18.24.

Sapong, meanwhile, allowed Tinian High School's Mary Grace Atalig to lead in the first half of their race before hitting her stride in the final 300m to win in 2.59.14. Atalig came in second in 3.09.47, while Saipan Southern High School's April Indalecio was third in 3.16.30.

In the boys U14, Tinian Junior High School's Joseph Lizama rocketed past favorites Elnathan Wong and Dylan Ackerman, both of Saipan Community School, to win the 800m race.

Lizama finished in a time of 2.32.97 against Wong and Ackerman's 2.33.44 and 2.37.16, respectively.

In the girls U14, defending champion Gabrielle Race reasserted her supremacy in the 800m by turning back the challenge of Neysha Balbin.

Race crossed the finish line in 2.53.21 against Balbin's 2.56.90. The latter reportedly is being trained by Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel. Panida Eitz completed the Top 3 with a time of 3.13.23.

William S. Reyes Elementary School had a 1-2 finish in the boys 12U 800m race with Joseph Liberato and Ryan Relucio checking in at 2.38.93 and 2.43.36. Garapan Elementary School's J.J. Jones came in third at 2.48.30.

Whispering Palms School's Negahr Rastguiy, meanwhile, momentarily traded her tennis racquet for a pair of running shoes and won the girls U12 800m race in a time of 2.57.67.

Saipan International School's Julia Ishikawa (3.08.39) and Dandan Elementary School's Liana Depich (3.10.08) settled for second and third places.

In the boys U10, Naoki Asai took home first place in the 800m with a time of 2.58.31, followed by Albert Attan of Garapan (3.02.50) and K.C. Figeroa of Koblerville Elementary School (3.09.37).

The girls U10 800m saw Koblerville's Tyvie They finishing first in 3.01.48 ahead of Garapan teammates Ayana Tengco (3.19.50) and Rane Ben (3.22.65).

SIS' Rintaro Miyawaki sprinted across the finish line to claim first place in the boys U8 800m. His time of 3.10.53 bested WPS' Kaden Church's 3.23.32 and Koblerville's R-Hennes Shoreys 3.36.58.

The girls U8, meanwhile, was a two-person race with Sheena Rejano of Koblerville finishing on top in 3.40.76, while Dandan Elementary School's Neiyahni Benavente came in second in 4.36.29.

In the longer 1,500m race, Joseph Liberato collected his second win of the day in the U12 division. The WSR student won the 1,500m in a time of 5.46.00. J.J. Jones was second in 6.14.52, while Carl Gaetos of Oleai Elementary School was third in 6.22.41.

Negahr Rastguiy also triumphed in her second race of the day, finishing the girls U12 1,500m in 6.27.42. She was followed by SIS' Julia Ishikawa (6.43.58) and Oleai's Jennifer "Kate" Perena (6.48.18).

WPS' Nokai Kasai and Logan Mister came in 1-2 in the U10 boys, completing the 1,500m in 6.00.20 and 6.06.59. Albert Atan of Garapan came in third in 6.24.02.

In the girls U10, Ayana Tengco won for Garapan in a time of 6.42.08 with Malika Miyawaki and Catherine Atalig, both of SIS, coming in second in third in 7.16.61 and 7.19.35, respectively.

It was 2-for-2 for the day for Rintaro Miyawaki of SIS as he won the U8 1,500m in 6.28.65. Kaden Church of WPS was second (7.08.76) and Taka Borja third (7.16.24).

Soleil Lamar of Brilliant Star, for her part, took the tape in the U8 girls 1,500m with a time of 7.20.39.

The shorter 60m race was a breeze for Jim Lacsina as the MHS standout finished first in the boys U18 with a time of 7.15, followed by Saipan Southern's Nevin Salem (7.36) and MHS' Tanner Kenty (7.70).

MHS' Rachel Abrams dominated the girls U18 race (7.90) with teammates Reylyn Sapong (8.34) and Joy Pena (8.64) in hot pursuit.

In the boys U14, Hopwood Junior High School swept the podium with Christian Morales (7.61), Edgem Bedania (7.72), and Dennis Norita (7.83) finishing 1-2-3.

It was also nearly a sweep for Hopwood in the girls U14 also, as Riella Ichiuo and Panida Eitz finished 1-2 with times of 8.70 and 9.38, respectively. SIS' Christina Kim was third in 9.61.

The boys U12 had Carlos Tapulei winning in 8.16 followed by Garapan's Aiferson Atan (8.37) and Oleai's Jericho Jonathan (8.54).

WSR's Chloe Sakisat was without peer in the U12 girls winning the 60m in 8.61. Koblerville's Christine Pude was second in 8.85 with San Antonio Elementary School's ChevyKate Alipio third in 9.12.

Saipan Community School finally won a race when Eddie Cho won the boys U10 60m in 9.01. Garapan's Arson Menchor and WSR's Glenn Matalog finished second and third with times of 9.20 and 9.28, respectively.

WSR's Magthalina Asebuu won the girls U10 after crossing the finish line in 9.34 with Stephanie Rejano (10.08) of Koblerville and Britney Espinosa (10.46) of Dandan coming in second and third.

Jae Won Han gave SCS its second first place finish of the day when he won the boys U8 (10.07). Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's Seijo Gonzales (10.25) and Kagman Elementary School's Justin Agulto finished runners-up.

GTC's Barbara Peteru was No. 1 in the girls U8, completing the 60m in 10.30. Oleai's Nicko Rasiang was second in 10.53, while Kagman's Britney Adolfo was third in 10.90.

The organizing Northern Marianas Athletics held a simple opening ceremony to start the competition with all 18 participating schools taking part in a parade of teams on the track.

NMA chief, Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (R-Saipan), thanked all schools taking part in the sporting event as well as the students' parents.

NMA also gave a posthumous plaque of recognition to the late Capt. Edwin Johnson for his contributions to the sport of athletics. Johnson, Tebuteb said, was a former president of the athletics association and also always lent his hand to NMA whenever it had competitions. Receiving the plaque was the late sportsman's daughter, Melody.

LADY

From Page 32

Lady Knights 12, Lady Dolphins 11

MCS established a healthy 8-2 lead in the opening frame off eight hits. Kimberly Sablan, Mikki Kautz, Amy Taylor, Rayann Yamagata, Carey Demapan, Jasmine Che, and Rikki Kautz all bashed hits and came in to score. Mikki Kautz bagged two hits in the inning, while Sablan scored twice and drew a leadoff walk to start the bottom frame.

Earlier in the top part of the inning, MHS' Jayna Lizama reached on a single and later stole home, while Nicole Beltau drove home a runner.

MHS added a run in the second when Maryann Waing reached home and the Lady Dolphins added three more in the third off four hits.

Then the count tightened up to 7-9 after the fourth inning as both teams worked around a run.

MHS' Judy Rose Bgirbabul brought in Ursula Lizama with a base rip, however MCS' Kaylani Lebria delivered an answer in the bottom portion.

MHS pulled ahead, 11-9, in the top of the fifth inning with four runs off four hits and some aggressive base running, but MCS fought back and knotted the match at 11-all in the bottom frame from two hits, three walks, and a bean ball. MCS' Sablan and Mikki Kautz touched home to keep their team alive.

In the end, the Lady Knights bit down and held off MHS in the top half of the sixth, after which MCS' Yamagata drew a leadoff walk to start the bottom of the inning and stole second base, third, and home for the win.

It was justice served for MCS which had a great chance to win the game in the previous inning, but one of their base runners simply failed to step on home plate.

Lady Ayuyus 10, Lady Knights 1

KHS' Mikayla Borja broke the ice in the first inning after belting a shot to left field and her teammates Catalina Del Cruz, Janica Lizama, and Ignacia Sakisat added to the early lead in the third inning; Sakisat was credited with the only hit of the frame.

KHS' Janelle Brel led off the fourth with a base hit and made it home with the help of Tracy Pelep's bat, while MCS' lone run came in later the fifth inning from an RBI single by Amy Taylor.

KHS then trudged ahead, 8-1, off two hits and some more hustle on the base paths in the sixth that led to Zerah Castro, Brel, and Pelep trotting to the dish.

The Lady Ayuyus went to add two more runs for good measure in the seventh inning off three hits; Dela Cruz and Borja touched all four in the process.

Notably, aside from all of the stolen bases, the Lady Ayuyus were actually hit-and-miss at the plate and struck out 11 times in the game.

Winning pitcher Castro went all seven innings and gave up one earned run off five hits, six walks, and eight strikeouts. Castro did a good job getting out of some jams from the hump and left MCS with 11 runners stranded.

KHS' Brel swung 2-for-3 with two runs, while MCS' Mikki Kautz batted 3-for-3 with a base-on-balls.

TSUNAMI

From Page 32

sights on the CNMI age group record in the 100m breaststroke, 200m breaststroke, 200m individual medley, 50m backstroke, and 400m freestyle.

Coach Kimura has even grander ambitions for two of his swimmers—Angel Tan and Kensuke Kimura.

The Tsunami Saipan head coach wants Tan to break the CNMI national records in the 100m breaststroke and 200m breaststroke, while the younger Kimura is expected to reset the national record in the 200m backstroke.

And coach Kimura is not stopping there as he also wants his wards to break Guam records.

"We're also targeting to break Guam records, not only CNMI records. Almost all of Guam record are faster than CNMI records. They are very good targets for us though Tsunami Saipan swimmers already have broken some Guam records," he said.

To prepare for the Guam Swimming Championships, coach Kimura said his swimmers are training seven times a week and swimming an average of 5,000m to 6,000m every day.

He added that before the 2012 Tokyo Junior Sprint meet last March, Tsunami Saipan swimmers were training for sprint races because of the 25m races there. But after that meet, they switched their training for the long course.

Coach Kimura added that he continues to be amazed by the fighting spirit of his swimmers

"Our swimmer have neither a talent nor a potential for swimming. However, they have the strong spirit to work hard and the grit to never give up. I wish to show that effort exceeds talent and potential at the Guam Swimming Championships," he said.

Coach Kimura also took the opportunity to thank the club's sponsors, namely Tan Holdings, Mariana Resort and Spa, DFS Galleria Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, McDonald's Saipan, Northern Mariana Swimming Federation, and Guam Swimming Federation for making their trip to the U.S. territory possible.

ANCHORS

From Page 32

on Saturday in the waters off the Saipan World Resort beach next to the old Royal Taga Bar.

The club will be hosting monthly events as they train to compete in the 2012 Micronesian Cup, scheduled for Oct. 27 and 28.

The club is a non-profit organization created back in 2010 that competed in the 2011 Micronesian Cup held on Guam.

"Hoe lokahi" is a Hawaiian term that translates into "paddle in harmony."

The club is currently seeking new individuals that are interested in incorporating paddling into their lifestyle, whether they are a novice or are experienced in the sport.

For more information, email Hoe Lokahi's Leilani Nielsen at heavymana@gmail.com.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	24	14	.632	–
Tampa Bay	24	14	.632	–
New York	20	17	.541	3 1/2
Toronto	20	18	.526	4
Boston	17	20	.459	6 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	21	16	.568	–
Detroit	18	19	.486	3
Chicago	17	21	.447	4 1/2
Kansas City	15	21	.417	5 1/2
Minnesota	11	26	.297	10

West Division

Texas	24	14	.632	–
Oakland	19	19	.500	5
Los Angeles	17	21	.447	7
Seattle	16	23	.410	8 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	23	14	.622	–
Atlanta	23	15	.605	1/2
Miami	20	17	.541	3
New York	20	17	.541	3
Philadelphia	19	19	.500	4 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	22	15	.595	–
Cincinnati	19	17	.528	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	17	20	.459	5
Houston	16	21	.432	6
Milwaukee	16	21	.432	6
Chicago	15	22	.405	7

West Division

Los Angeles	24	13	.649	–
San Francisco	18	19	.486	6
Arizona	16	22	.421	8 1/2
Colorado	15	21	.417	8 1/2
San Diego	14	24	.368	10 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mawati, Fastbreakers notch wins in DLX caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mawati and Fastbreakers came away the victors of Wednesday's 2012 Domino Lux Invitational Basketball League matchups held at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Mawati outlasted Aries, 73-64, in the opening feature, while Fastbreakers bested San Roque, 78-69, in the late match.

Meanwhile last Monday, 8th Division defeated Pogi, 74-60, and Pacific Grocers made it past Wushin, 76-72, in overtime.

A pair of 3-pointers by Mawati's Ramsa Tenepere and Joboy Samonte provided an early 15-14 edge in the opening 10 minutes of Wednesday's curtainraiser.

The team pressed on, 34-25, at the half thanks to six points apiece by Spam Avila and Jerome Reyes along with another late trey by Tenepere to end the frame.

Aries' Rod Sacramento led his team with nine markers in the first half and came out with reckless abandon in third quarter for 13 points to pull his team within two baskets, 49-53, heading into crunch time.

However, Mawati's Harris Enriques and Marlo Ibanez took the reins in the third quarter and combined for a dozen points to maintain control.

Aries grew tired after the third-quarter push and was held to just 15 points in the payoff period, while Mawati's Webster Gontar chipped in a handful of his side's 20 in the final minutes to secure the win.

Mawati's Ibanez led his squad with 18 points, while Aries' Sacramento topped the field with 23.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Fastbreakers' Melvin Cadiang, seen here going for a layup in this file photo, led his team against San Roque in Wednesday's DLX Invitational Basketball League at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

In the late tiff, San Roque broke out to an early 20-12 lead built primarily from 12 points by Angelo Fernando.

It looked to be a promising start, but the Fastbreakers battled back in the second quarter and pulled in front, 36-32, at halftime.

Melvin Cadiang matched Fernando's effort in the second canto and received support from four of his teammates.

Fastbreakers then put the pedal to the metal after intermission and surged ahead, 57-46, heading into the fourth quarter.

Saturno led four others with six points in the uprising as San Roque was stuffed again with 14 points in the third period.

Fastbreakers then buried three long balls in the final period, two of which from Cadiang who led in the clutch with eight points.

He finished with a team-high 30, while San Roque's Fernando led all scorers with 31.

In Monday's opener, 8th Division grinded out an early 17-15 edge with a three-ball by Allano to end the first quarter of action.

He nailed a second shot from long range in the second period as his team pushed ahead, 31-27, at halftime.

Harold Aranda led Pogi with 12 points in the first half, while 8th Division's Rick Alejandro and Daniel Dela Cruz teamed up for 19.

8th Division then enjoyed a 50-41 gap after the third quarter as a handful of players contributed on the offensive end before Rafael Rivera stepped back on the court and put up 16 points in the final stanza.

He finished with 23 points and beat out Pogi's Jeffrey Bahillio by a bucket as the top scorer of the game. Five 8th Division players finished in double figures.

In the late match, Pacific Grocers romped to an early, 20-8, advantage in the first quarter largely from six points apiece by Mater and Cris Lansang.

Wushin postured back a little and held its opponents to just 10 marks in the second quarter, but Pacific Grocers' managed to sink six free throws to maintain control, 30-22, at midpoint.

The bulk of their damage came from Lansang and Julius Tabamo who combined for 15 points in the first 20 minutes of the match.

Wushin would not go away, however, and pulled within two possessions, 41-45, heading into the final quarter of regulation.

Wushin's Orly Ebuen drained a couple of treys to complement contributions from four others, while their defense held Pacific Grocers to a dismal 14 on the other end.

Wushins' Ferdie Tobias then caught fire and led a fourth-quarter charge with 13 points, which welcomed seven more points in support from George Villasan that resulted in a 62-all deadlock after four frames.

Pacific Grocers managed to share the ball pretty well, however no one stepped up and took control of their offense in prime time, but they regrouped and figured it out in the bonus frame.

Lansang and Tabamo delivered some key baskets in the overtime period, however six free throws made collectively by the squad may have been what secured the victory in the end.

Tabamo finished atop the scoring list with 24 points, while Tobias paced Wushin with 21.

WEDNESDAY
First Game

Mawati 73 – Ibanez 18, Avila 16, Reyes 10, Tenepere 10, Enriques 7, Gontar 5, Corotan 2, Rena 2.

Aries 64 – Sacramento 23, Tenorio 17, Culala 7, Anasan 6, Lester 4, De Luna 3, Ocsillos 2, Sablan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-14, 34-25, 53-49, 73-64.

Second Game

Fastbreaker 78 – Cadiang 30, Aranda 13, De Leon 11, Taylor 11, Saturno 8, Isip 2, Pellegrino 2, Olpindo 1.

San Roque 69 – Fernando 31, Salazar 12, Achas 7, Odicta 7, Capuli 5, Villanueva 5, Claveria 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-20, 36-32, 57-46, 78-69.

MONDAY
First Game

8th Division 74 – Rivera 23, Allano 14, Dela Cruz 14, Alejandro 10, Ditera 10, Reyes 2.

Pogi 60 – Je. Bahillio 21, Aranda 16, Ja, Bahillio 11, Alegre 5, Gallardo 4, Lansang 3.

Scoring by quarters: 17-15, 31-27, 50-41, 74-60.

Second Game

Pacific Grocers 76 – Tabamo 24, Saplan 14, Lansang 14, Santos 10, Master 9, Pacson 3, Towun 2.

Wushin 72 – Tobias 21, Tibayan 15, Villasan 13, Ebuen 6, De Belen 5, De Jesus 4, Bautista 2, Farinas 2, Patawaran 2, Schneider 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-8, 30-22, 45-41, 62-62, 76-72 (OT).

Swim meet to conclude officiating clinic

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A swimming meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool will conclude the FINA Officiating Swim Clinic being conducted these past several days by Don Blew, vice chairman of the FINA Technical Committee.

Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation's Carol-Lynn Calobong Pierce said the meet will be held today, May 18, and tomorrow, May 19, from 4pm to 6pm at the Marpi facility.

She said the sole purpose of the meet is for the on-the-deck training for "aquatic enthusiasts learning to officiate" who attended the clinic.

"Aquatic enthusiasts are getting a rare glimpse into the officiating procedures at the highest level. Mr. Blew travels the globe conducting technical swim clinics. He will be attending his 6th Olympic Games this summer assigning all technical officials for the London Olympics in competitive swimming," said Calobong Pierce.

She added that a FINA Officiating Swim Clinic only occurs every decade on Saipan. Don West conducted the last session in the 1990s and Dennis Miller conducted a clinic in the 1980s.

The ongoing clinic covered the following topics: Introduction to Swimming officiating; Approach to being top swimming officials; Competition conduct; Stroke rules; and Duties of timekeepers, recorders, starter, judges of stroke, inspector of turns, finish judges, referee, and announcer.

It is open to any adult 18 years and older who is interested in aquatics in the Commonwealth.

FINA stands for Fédération Internationale de Natation and is the international federation recognized by the International Olympic Committee for administering international competition in the aquatic sports. Its name translated from French is "International Swimming Federation.

It is one of several international federations which administers a given sport/discipline for the IOC and/or international community. It is based in Lausanne, Switzerland.

FINA currently oversees competition in five aquatic sports: swimming, diving, synchronized swimming, water polo and open water swimming.

PASL 5th Annual Memorial Day tourney set May 25-28

The Pohnpei Amateur Softball League is gearing up for its 5th Annual Memorial Day Softball Tournament set for this holiday weekend from May 25 through May 28 at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Event organizers are calling for a 6:30pm coaches, managers, and team representatives meeting today, May 18, at the pavilion behind Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in Oleai.

Organizers said the event is being held simply, "In honor of our fallen soldiers and service men and women."

The entrance fee to participate in the coed event is set at $150 per team.

Trophies and prizes will be awarded to the Top 3 place finishers.

For more information, contact Alkantro G. Sarapio at 483-9118, Frank Shiro at 287-3732, Semerina Simram at 234-5750, or Tony Luzama at 256-0141. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

RGA May Ace this Sunday

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold its May Ace of the Month Tournament this coming Sunday, May 20, at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

Show time is set at 11am and tee time will be at 12pm. All members are encouraged to participate as only eight months remain for the annual RGA Ace of Aces Championship Tournament.

This Sunday's event will feature potential CNMI national golf player L.J. Camacho who posted the lowest score of 70 during the May qualifier last May 6.

If no player cards a score lower than Camacho's, he will be awarded the May Ace trophy.

The May will also join early Ace of Aces qualifiers Joe Saures (April), Jordon Kosam (March), Tony Rogolifoi (February), and Kim Ki Soo (January).

For more information, contact Jess Wabol at 288-1129, Joe Suares at 483-5506, or Jordan Kosam at 483-4506. Inquiries can also be emailed to cnmirga@gmail.com. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Thunder rally to edge Lakers in Game 2

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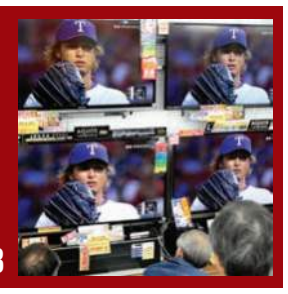
Saipan Tribune
Sports

Darvish steers Rangers past Athletics



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Lady Knights clip Lady Dolphins, 12-11

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Mount Carmel School Lady Knights barely got away from the Marianas High School Lady Dolphins, 12-11, in Wednesday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls fast-pitch softball match at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The win issued MCS (1-5) a third place ranking over MHS (1-5) heading into this weekend's four-team single elimination tournament.

Back on Monday, the top-ranked Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus (6-0) finished their season undefeated with a stout 10-1 win over the Lady Knights and are definitely the team to beat heading into post-season play.

Defending champion Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays (3-3) finished the regular season in second place.

The playoffs start at noon today and continue at 8am tomorrow on Tan Ge Field.

See LADY on Page 30

Mount Carmel School Lady Knights second baseman Rayann Yamagata fields a grounder up the middle and looks to tag out a Marianas High School Lady Dolphins runner during the final regular season game of the MISO girls fast-pitch softball season last Wednesday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Mancao, Sapong shine as All Schools start

MARK RABAGO

Marianas High School's Michael Mancao, left, and Reylyn Sapong led Day 1 winners of the 2012 PSS/McDonald's Saipan All Schools Track and Field Championships held Thursday at the Oleai Sports Complex

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CNMI national track and field members Michael Mancao and Reylyn Sapong led the winners in Day 1 of the PSS/McDonald's 9th Annual All Schools Track and Field Championships held Thusrday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Both Marianas High School students topped their respective boys and girls 18-and-under 800m races with Mancao burning rubber in a time of 2.06.65.

The younger brother of CNMI veteran runner Matthew Mancao went full speed ahead in the race's last 100m to outclass his closest pursuer Beouch Ngirchongor, also of MHS, who finished second with a time of 2:14.91.

Third place went to another MHS runner, as Charles Bautista completed the Dol-

See MANCAO on Page 30

Tsunami Saipan eyes records in Hagatna

ROSLEYN B. MONROYO

Kensuke Kimura, seen here in a file photo, will spearhead Tsunami Saipan's pursuit of breaking records in the 2012 Guam Swimming Championships.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura would rather break records than take home high point trophies in the 2012 Guam Swimming Championships at the Hagatna Pool in Guam.

Coach Kimura said he expects all of his swimmers who will see action in the Guam meet, which is set from May 25 to 26, to at the very least break CNMI age group records.

For instance, the Tsunami Saipan mentor said he wants 8-year-old Ryuto Yanai to shatter the local age group marks in the 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 200m freestyle, 400m freestyle, and 50m backstroke.

Ten-year-old Miku Tammy, meanwhile, is expected to better CNMI age group records in the 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 50m butterfly, 100m butterfly, and 200m backstroke.

Kaito Yanai is setting his

See TSUNAMI on Page 30

'Anchors away' for Hoe Lokahi tomorrow

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Hoe Lokahi Canoe Club will have its season opening outrigger event starting tomorrow, May 19, beginning 8am in the waters off Killili Beach.

The group has invited fellow canoe clubs such as the Marianas Pacific Paddlers, Mas Fatuul, and the Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club, which will all compete in a series of men's, women's, and mixed crew 500m sprints this weekend.

The public is welcome to attend and cheer on all of the teams.

For those interested in paddling with the Hoe Lokahi Canoe Club, the group holds women's practices on Monday and Wednesday at 5pm and on Saturday starting at 7:30am.

Men's practices take place on Tuesdays at 5:30pm and 6:30am

See ANCHORS on Page 30

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays' boys outrigger team approaches the finish line during the MISO season finale 500m sprint finals last Saturday in the waters off Killi Beach.